United Nations S/PV.7750

Security Council

Seventy-first year

Provisional

7750th meeting

28 July 2016, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Kishida/Mr. Bessho/Mr. Okamura	(Japan)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Chikoti
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	Egypt	Mr. Moustafa
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	Malaysia	Mr. Aman
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	United States of America	Ms. Power
	Uruguay	Mr. Rosselli
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Ramírez Carreño

Agenda

Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

Peacebuilding in Africa

Letter dated 1 July 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2016/586)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

Peacebuilding in Africa

Letter dated 1 July 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2016/586)

The President: I wish to warmly welcome the Secretary-General, the Ministers and other representatives present in today's meeting. Their participation is an affirmation of the importance of the subject matter under discussion.

In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Denmark, Ethiopia, Germany, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey and Uganda to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the following briefers to participate in this meeting: Her Excellency Ms. Amina Chawahir Mohamed, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Kenya and Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission; and His Excellency Mr. Smail Chergui, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Carl Hallergard, Minister Counsellor of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, to participate in this meeting.

I propose that the Council invite the Permanent Observer of the Observer State of the Holy See to the United Nations, to participate in this meeting, in accordance with the provisional rules of procedure and the previous practice in this regard.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2016/586, which contains a letter dated 1 July 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a concept paper on the item under consideration.

I now give the floor to the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

The Secretary-General: Peacebuilding is at the core of the United Nations activities in conflict-affected countries throughout the world. The recent historic resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council emphasize that sustaining peace is a shared responsibility of Governments, national stakeholders and the United Nations.

Peace in Africa is a top priority. As we meet, South Sudan remains precariously poised on the brink of an abyss. The promises of the new State for peace, justice and opportunity have been squandered. I am appalled by the scale of sexual violence documented by our human rights teams. We demand accountability for all atrocities and that the leaders of South Sudan commit to the peace process. Instability also persists in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, Mali and a number of other nations.

This a cause of grave concern for all, but it is also important to emphasize that this is not the full story of Africa. There is another narrative, largely untold, of growing economies, improved living standards and expanding democratic space. Our shared responsibility is to nourish these seeds of peace and prosperity. One way we can do that is to nurture inclusive, transparent, effective and accountable institutions and help the nations of Africa achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. When institutions are weak, nations cannot thrive. Inclusive and accountable institutions are the cement that bonds States and citizens. They provide security and justice, limit corruption, reduce marginalization and avert ethnic tension. They promote the delivery of essential services, from sanitation and health care to an enabling environment for business to flourish. They offer a channel for resolving disputes and preventing the outbreak of violent conflict. They are the bedrock of peace and sustainable development.

Building effective and legitimate institutions is not easy, but we have learned some fundamental lessons.

First, there are no one-size-fits-all solutions. Institution-building has to be rooted in national historical, political, social, cultural and economic contexts. Trying to impose an outside model on a post-conflict country can do more harm than good. The focus should be on building on existing institutions to provide the services that people need.

Secondly, institution-building needs to be rooted in political agreement. National ownership and leadership are key. That means broad, inclusive dialogue encompassing central Government, local authorities, communities, the private sector and civil society, especially youth, women and marginalized groups. Such dialogue enhances social cohesion, strengthens the legitimacy of the State and increases the sustainability of reforms.

Thirdly, institution-building is a long-term process that sometimes takes decades. Each country's institutions should be allowed to develop incrementally, allowing for experimentation, learning and adaptation. But communities also need to see early and tangible progress. Peace dividends are essential, and perceptions are critical. If expectations are high but not met, even if there is progress, grievances can mount. Measuring the impact of institution-building is not easy. Results can be intangible or elusive for years. Pressures from donor countries for instant results can be detrimental to long-term development objectives and, ultimately, to peace. Therefore, in meeting our shared responsibility, we need wisdom, commitment and patience.

United Nations missions and humanitarian and development actors are committed to working closely as one to support institution-rebuilding and strengthening in Africa. In Somalia, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, the country team, the Peacebuilding Support Office, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank are supporting the Government under the New Deal Compact to restore core Government functions, including through a flagship capacity development programme. We are helping the country to build stronger public-sector institutions that can deliver services and access, thereby helping the Federal Government to establish and gain the people's trust in State authority, especially outside of Mogadishu in newly recovered areas.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the United Nations country team have been working on an integrated programme of justice, local governance and development initiatives in support of the international security, stabilization and support strategy. The programme focuses on the delivery of basic services in stabilized areas in North Kivu and on preventing grievances that could lead to further conflict

Finally, the United Nations and the World Bank have jointly developed a diagnostic tool to assess core Government functions and identify key actions necessary to deliver essential services. Drawing on our experience in the Central African Republic in 2014, when the United Nations and the World Bank supported the payment of civil servants, the tool is currently being piloted in Libya, and we hope to be able to deploy it in South Sudan and Yemen. Support for core Government functions is critical during the early recovery period and an essential component of the peacebuilding and State-building process.

Peacekeeping operations and political missions have seen a significant increase in institution-building mandates from the Council in recent years. However, these have not always come with realistic time frames or the necessary resources and support. I welcome the fact that the Fifth Committee has allocated funds in the budgets of a number of peacekeeping operations for programmatic activities focusing on institution-building, including in partnership with United Nations country teams.

But a large gap remains. Despite praise for the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) in the recent peace and security reviews, it faces a desperate funding shortfall. To deliver on the collective commitment to sustaining peace. I am asking Governments to help the PBF pledging conference in September to achieve the funding target of $300 million. I thank the efforts of hosts Kenya, Mexico, the Netherlands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sweden and the United Kingdom for their efforts.

Institution-building entails strong partnership, coherence and coordination among many actors: intergovernmental bodies, headquarters and the field, entities on the ground, international financial institutions, regional organizations and civil society. The Peacebuilding Commission provides an important platform to help focus the attention of all these actors on long-term institution-building. It can help mobilize resources, share lessons and sustain engagement by the international community. I encourage the Security Council to build on the recent resolution 2282 (2016), on sustaining peace, and on its deliberations during the informal interactive dialogue led by France in June, and to continue to strengthen its relationship with the Peacebuilding Commission.

The President: I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

I now give the floor to Ms. Mohamed.

Ms. Mohamed: I thank you very much, Sir, for the opportunity to participate in this important debate on peacebuilding in Africa. I congratulate you on Japan's ascendancy to the presidency of the Council for July and commend you for the manner in which you have conducted its affairs. I also thank you for providing the concept note (S/2016/586, annex) that has guided and will continue to guide the debate on this important subject.

Let me also thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive briefing, as well as for his leadership, wisdom, commitment and patience.

Kenya is honoured to participate in this debate, which is taking place just before the sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI), which will be held in Nairobi on 27 and 28 August. Japan's historic commitment to and its reliable partnership with Africa in peace and development are well known. The hosting of TICAD VI in Africa reaffirms Japan's strong commitment to our continent.

I applaud the Security Council for its role in stabilizing countries in conflict. In an increasingly complex and interconnected world, the role of the United Nations cannot be overemphasized. All the countries on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) are from Africa. Peacebuilding remains crucial to our continent, which continues to face unprecedented challenges even as the world becomes more globalized, democracy spreads and regional integration deepens. Today Africa is still struggling with some of the same challenges. The key difference today is that the continent is more determined than ever to overcome them. Let me outline some of the measures that Africa has taken to respond to the challenges it faces.

First, in 2002, Africa transformed the Organization of African Unity into the African Union (AU), complete with a framework for the development of an African Peace and Security Architecture. The framework laid the foundation for institutionalizing peacebuilding in Africa. Through it, institutions such as the African Union Commission, the AU Peace and Security Council, the Continental Early Warning System, the Panel of the Wise, the African Standby Force and the AU Peace Fund were established. Those institutions are still at different stages of evolution and provide the basis for peacebuilding in Africa. The recent relaunch of the revamped AU Peace Fund by the AU Summit in Kigali earlier this month reaffirms our commitment.

Secondly, African countries have revitalized their regional economic integration initiatives in order to ensure sustained peace and shared prosperity. Today the regional bodies the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the Economic Community of West African States, the Economic Community of Central African States, the Southern African Development Community, the Arab Maghreb Union and the East African Community are determined to sustain peace through trade and economic partnerships. We have all signed up for the Continental Free Trade Area. We are looking for freer movement of goods, services and persons.

Thirdly, institutionalized strategic partnerships were sought with the United Nations and its various agencies in all areas of peace and security based on consultative decision-making, a division of labour, and burden- and responsibility-sharing. Those relationships have evolved from ad hoc consultations to systematic, principled and predictable arrangements through the setting up of the United Nations Office to the AU and the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, both of which remain a positive work in progress.

The challenge of achieving effective peacebuilding has become the main preoccupation for policymakers on our continent and beyond. The evolving nature of conflicts in Africa and elsewhere necessitated the institutionalization of peacebuilding through the establishment of the PBC in 2005. The PBC brings together various actors, both national and international, to ensure that countries affected by conflict do not lapse or relapse into conflict. The essence remains that of building effective partnerships for sustaining peace. True partnership actually starts at the community level, moving on to the national, regional and international levels. The whole process, which is intended to leave no one behind, must include the private sector, civil society, women and youth. Effective partnerships remain essential to sustaining peace and development in Africa. Of course, there is sufficient evidence to show that there can be no peace without development.

It is exactly three months since the Security Council and the General Assembly adopted identical resolutions on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. The report of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture (see S/2015/490) provided a solid basis for the two progressive resolutions. The report also observed that the fragmentation between several intergovernmental organs dealing with peace and security, each holding a piece of the peacebuilding puzzle, had proved to be a significant impediment to operations on the ground, where peacebuilding actually takes place. The resolutions introduced the principle of sustaining peace, which stresses the need for more investment in governance, security and development in the continuum of conflict prevention, management and resolution.

More emphasis on conflict prevention means recognizing the primacy of politics in the pacific settlement of disputes — an issue to which the Secretary-General has referred. The importance of investing in early-warning systems instead of reacting to outbreaks of violence is clear, and could not be more clear in the cases he cited. The full implementation of the resolutions could result in lesser emphasis on militarized responses to conflicts in Africa, and instead promote more political engagement and developmental approaches that could result in effective peacebuilding.

The PBC strives to uphold national ownership and leadership in the implementation of peacebuilding initiatives. We fully appreciate that. Similarly, the Peacebuilding Fund has provided critical funding to the establishment and functioning of national institutions that play a central role in peacebuilding processes to address challenges. Moving forward, in order to sustain peace for effective development in Africa, let me make the following observations.

First, peacebuilding cannot succeed if half of the population is excluded from the process Across Africa, the invaluable role of women in the whole cycle of conflict — and not just during the post-conflict reconstruction — as well as their capacity to shape, drive and promote peace, is well known. Bridging cultural challenges that hinder women's participation in sustaining peace, mainstreaming gender in the peacebuilding discourse and involving them in decision-making at all levels must be a priority. I am pleased to report substantive progress in the drafting of the PBC gender strategy, which I am confident will further strengthen the Commission's engagement on gender-related peacebuilding. We intend to formally propose the strategy for adoption in early September.

Secondly, the PBC can be effective only if policy and political discussions are complemented by predictable financial support for critical priorities. As I mentioned earlier, the revamped African Union Peace Fund to support AU-led peace operations was launched during the AU Summit in Kigali. It remains underfunded.

Similarly, we all recognize the crucial role of the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), especially in Africa. Its flexibility and impact on our collective efforts to sustaining peace at short notice is not in dispute. However, it has perennially faced a desperate funding shortfall. It is against that backdrop that Kenya, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Sweden, Mexico, Sri Lanka and Somalia will co-host a pledging conference for the PBF on 21 September on the margins of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly. I take this opportunity to invite all Member States to the pledging conference.

Finally, allow me to make a few remarks in my national capacity as the representative of Kenya.

I came here from chairing the fourteenth session of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), which successfully concluded in Nairobi last Friday and whose theme was "From Decisions to Actions". The Conference underscored the importance of international support measures such as market access, official development assistance, increased investment flows, and technical assistance and technology transfer as crucial building blocks to enhance the economic resilience of countries and communities in developing countries. Enhancing economic development is recognized as building resilience to risks and vulnerabilities in the most fragile States. Peacebuilding therefore has to contribute to maximizing trade, investment and development opportunities. Such effort no doubt requires the collective, coordinated and sustained support of both State and non-State actors.

Moreover, in the wake of the historic adoption of key global policies in 2015, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1) and the Paris Climate Change Agreement, among others, achieving peace and security has to continue to underpin the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The interconnectivity of the SDGs implies that the work of the Peacebuilding Commission has to fit into and complement the work of all other agencies and initiatives that promote social, economic and political development. The divide between peacebuilding, humanitarian assistance and development needs to be overcome and addressed as a continuum, so that every person everywhere can have an opportunity to achieve peace and prosperity.

I would like to assure everyone that we are committed to the pursuit of peace on and beyond the continent and consider it a prerequisite for development and prosperity. That is why we are concerned by the pullback on the part of the European Union of its funding to the African Union Mission in Somalia and AU missions elsewhere — a move that we consider not well-aligned with our collective objective to achieve sustainable peace in our part of the world. I hope that that matter will continue to receive the attention of the Council.

Once again, I wish to thank Japan for organizing this debate. I wish to invite all members of the Council to TICAD VI, which is to be held in Nairobi from 27 to 28 August. It is our desire that the link between peace, peacebuilding, security and the 2030 Agenda be emphasized and given pride of place.

In conclusion, we welcome the diagnostic tool developed by the United Nations and the World Bank. We in Kenya actually know the wisdom and the value of deploying technology in the service of humankind. We have developed three such technologies and applications: the "Umati" project for crowds; "Wiano" for reconciliation; and "Ushahidi", which means "witness" or "testimony". The Ushahidi project was used in Kenya, Haiti and Japan, among other places.

The President: I thank Ms. Mohamed for her briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Chergui.

Mr. Chergui: I thank His Excellency Mr. Kishida, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, for presiding over today's meeting. I also thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Her Excellency and my sister, Ms. Amina Mohamed, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Kenya, and the ministers present here.

I wish to express the gratitude of the African Union (AU) to the Security Council and also to Japan for organizing this open debate on the subject of peacebuilding in Africa. The high calibre of the representatives gathered here in the Chamber shows the importance that we all attach to the critical issue of peacebuilding in Africa.

At the outset, let me say that I fully endorse the important contribution made by my sister, Amina, on this matter.

As everyone knows, in 2013 the African Union celebrated 50 years of existence since the birth of that continental body in 1963, under the theme of pan-Africanism and African renaissance. While we remember the great strides that the continent has made in the economic, political and social areas, we are also aware that there are still numerous challenges to peace and development in Africa. We therefore need to continue to undertake sustained, bold and innovative initiatives and endeavours, inspired by the ambitions that led to the birth of the African Union and its predecessor, the Organization of African Unity.

It is in that context that the theme of today's open debate resonates well with our vision of ensuring a better Africa for all our citizens, especially women and youth, who are particularly affected by the tragic consequences of conflicts and often find it hard to access the resources that will ensure them a better livelihood, as better livelihoods contribute to nation-building. Experience has shown that any failure to ensure the consolidation of peace is to be viewed as a clear threat to peace and human security, and that is a reality for many countries in Africa, especially those emerging from conflict. I wish to underline that the African Union's authoritative policy framework on post-conflict reconstruction and development, endorsed 10 years ago by its Executive Council, outlines six indicative elements that provide the foundation for achieving sustainable development in a post-conflict setting, namely, security, humanitarian and emergency assistance; political governance and transition; socioeconomic reconstruction and development; human rights, justice and reconciliation; and women and gender. That policy requires the African Union to work with the regional economic communities, the relevant United Nations agencies and other institutions and African non-governmental organizations in a collaborative manner to realize and consolidate post-conflict reconstruction and development in post-conflict and conflict-prone States.

Since the adoption of its post-conflict reconstruction and development policy, the African Union Commission has taken a number of steps towards its implementation. They include the identification of joint activities in support of the implementation of peace agreements in member States of the African Union emerging from conflict, conducting needs-assessment missions, consolidating and scaling up security-sector reform, pursuing disarmament, demobilization and reintegration initiatives, and sustained collaboration with regional groupings, mechanisms and civil-society organizations. Such engagements have also been geared towards developing and implementing regional strategies for women's effective participation in peace and security frameworks at the regional and national level, the implementation of quick-impact projects and peace-strengthening projects in the areas of the deployment of African Union peace-support operations, and through the African Union liaison offices.

Secondly, all such post-conflict reconstruction and development programmes and policies are obliged to mainstream gender and comply with resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security and related African Union instruments. In furthering the advancement of women's empowerment and gender equality, the African Union Commission has sponsored initiatives to promote women's participation in democratic processes and institution-building in post-conflict settings.

Thirdly, the African Union Commission continues to engage a number of partners in the implementation of its post-conflict reconstruction and development policy. The Peacebuilding Commission and other United Nations agencies, the African Development Bank, the Economic Commission for Africa, civil society organizations and bilateral actors are some of the key partners that have been engaged thus far. This year, as we celebrate 10 years of the African Union's post-conflict reconstruction and development policy, we need to consider the evolving global peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction discourse and how it impacts our response in the light of the interconnected strategic, structural and operational challenges. As a dynamic organization, the African Union has taken note of the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, the report of the Advisory Group of Experts (see S/2015/490), the report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (see S/2015/446) and the global study on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). I wish to outline several lessons that we have learned and on which we can build for more effective peacebuilding in Africa.

First, the most obvious lesson is demonstrated by the recent relapse of several post-conflict countries into violence and instability, highlighting the crucial necessity for coherent post-conflict reconstruction and development strategies and interventions in Africa.

Secondly, and in view of the magnitude and complex challenges connected with post-conflict reconstruction and development, more attention must be given to the coherence and coordination of all actors to enhance synergies of action and integrated planning and operations, which effectively lead to structured and effective implementation. That will require close coordination at the strategic, policy and operational levels with a view to consolidating the implementation of post-conflict reconstruction and development by the African Union, regional mechanisms and entities within the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. In the light of the two United Nations reports on peacebuilding and peace-support operations (see S/2015/490, S/2015/446), we look forward to reflecting on and advancing creative joint modalities so that we can move forward in addressing the current persisting reality of disjointed and incoherent peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction implementation, and to working with other peace and security programmes at the level of the African Union, regional mechanisms and Member States in an effort to have a greater impact. Moreover, if properly calibrated, the African Union post-conflict reconstruction and development interventions will be critical to the African Union's conflict-prevention strategies. That requires taking into consideration the regional dimensions and transnational nature of conflicts in Africa, which necessitate the formulation of post-conflict reconstruction and development interventions that address those realities.

Furthermore, with a view to addressing the limited sharing of lessons learned and best practices across the United Nations and the African Union, the African Union and the entities within the United Nations peacebuilding architecture should explore practical modalities of sharing experiences, focusing on measures to develop appropriate tools for knowledge management and information-sharing that can empower the continent and regional mechanisms to respond to the initiatives aimed at implementing an adequate post-conflict reconstruction and development policy. In that regard, an annual meeting between the African Union and the United Nations to share experiences, lessons learned and progress in the implementation of the post-conflict reconstruction and development policy should be institutionalized.

There are a number of interconnected challenges pertaining to financing for which we have had to find more innovative approaches. First, one such innovation is the Africa Solidarity Initiative, whose funding conference was launched in July 2013 in Addis Ababa as part of the activities marking the fiftieth anniversary of the Organization of African Unity/African Union. The aim was to mobilize the help of Africans to Africans. That includes the sharing of experiences, best practices, the offering of training facilities, the exchange of familiarization schemes and capacity-building.

The overall goal is to promote a paradigm shift that promotes African self-reliance driven by the motto "Africa helping Africa". Let me emphasize the fact that that initiative does not seek to overlook the support from traditional and new partners in any way. Rather, it seeks to provide an opportunity for Africa to generate additional "beyond-the-box" ideas for addressing post-conflict reconstruction and development challenges and contribute towards a renewed sense of promoting intra-African solutions to the complex challenges of post-conflict reconstruction and development.

The implementation of that initiative will also take into account existing initiatives for post-conflict reconstruction in Africa, as well as other emerging initiatives, such as the global dialogue on fragility, and promote further efforts towards a harmonized conceptual understanding of the transition-recovery-development continuum in the African context. We believe that the Africa Solidarity Initiative will galvanize the private sector as an important stakeholder in reconstruction and socioeconomic development. The contribution made by the private sector to the African Union's fight against the Ebola virus outbreak provides invaluable lessons.

At this juncture, I also stress the need for local perspectives and the empowerment of the marginalized as the key to sustaining peace. The effort to involve local communities and convert their in-kind contributions and indigenous knowledge into coherent plans and programmes requires patience and greater resources and involves security risks where conflict persists. Yet identifying mechanisms for local participation and empowerment is critical to sustaining peace.

If peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction in Africa is to move beyond partial success, the African Union Commission and the United Nations peacebuilding architecture need to consider developing a joint 10-year strategy for implementation, with a robust monitoring and evaluation plan that would enhance the peace dividends in Africa for many families, communities and societies.

What we need is for both the African Union and the United Nations to fully play their roles, which would consolidate sustainable peace, human rights and development in Africa. In doing so, we would be better prepared to anticipate future conflicts and adapt our interventions accordingly.

The President: I thank Mr. Chergui for his briefing.

The Council has before it the draft text of a statement by the President on behalf of the Council on the subject of today's meeting. I thank Council members for their valuable contributions to the statement. In accordance with the understanding reached among the members of the Council, I shall take it that the members of the Security Council agree to the statement, which will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2016/12.

I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

Let me begin by expressing my deep appreciation for the informative and insightful briefings just given by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Ambassador Amina Chawahir Mohamed of Kenya and Commissioner Smail Chergui of the African Union. I would also like to thank the Ministers from Angola, France, Malaysia and Senegal for their presence here today.

At the outset, we might want to ask ourselves why we need to discuss peacebuilding in Africa. The answer is quite straightforward: Africa and its people possess a rich culture and traditions and a huge potential for future growth. But there are African countries that are suffering from conflicts, confrontations and terrorism.

As we know, the Republic of South Sudan has been facing grave challenges. Japanese peacekeepers are working alongside international forces in the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), which was originally mandated to support peace-consolidation efforts aimed at fostering State-building, with an emphasis on institution-building. In the light of the changes on the ground, UNMISS now focuses on the protection of civilians and other urgent tasks. We need to pool our collective wisdom in order to engage in institution-building in countries where confrontation persists.

Much greater efforts and resources are needed to address situations once conflicts occur than to prevent situations from turning into conflicts or relapsing into conflicts. Whether we succeed in building national institutions conducive to peace and stability in Africa is enormously important.

During this open debate, I would like to encourage representatives to focus on the significant role played by institution-building, particularly in conflict prevention. I look forward to pragmatic discussions that might show us the way forward as we consider lessons learned.

Now let me touch upon Japan's three principles on peacebuilding in Africa.

First, there is an emphasis on people and the field. We move forward together with local populations, empowering the people on the ground.

Secondly, we put emphasis on improving living standards through inclusive economic development, which serves as the basis of peace.

The third principle is tolerance of diversity. While emphasizing universal values, Japan also respects the importance of ethnic diversity and local ownership, and is cautious not to rush to quick results.

These principles are in line with the basic philosophy of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) process: ownership and partnership. TICAD VI, which will be held in Kenya this August, will be a good opportunity to promote peacebuilding in Africa via development. Japan will continue to engage with Africa through the open process of TICAD, based on a broad partnership with the United Nations and other international bodies.

Bearing in mind these three principles, let me outline four priority areas for Japan's peacebuilding efforts.

First, the focus of our support is institution-building in Africa, while also respecting the continent's diversity, unique characteristics and traditional institutions. In Chad, Japan has supported the enhanced administration of electoral institutions, as well as the design of systems to manage election-related disputes. In this context, it is useful to collaborate with regional organizations with a deep understanding of the local context.

Secondly, we support capacity-building for the people who actually run the institutions. In order to eradicate violence and terror, we need to train the police forces in communities. Japan has supported a police-training programme in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for more than 20,000 police officers. In addition, Japan will cooperate with the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization to promote capacity-building for legal institutions.

Thirdly, in order to sustain peace, we need to build trust in addition to institutions. In Côte d'Ivoire, Japan has supported strengthened capacity of the administrative services, with an eye towards social integration, in order to restore trust between administration and the people.

Lastly, we need innovation in peacebuilding methods. There is ample room for expanded use of science and technology. In North Africa, Japan has supported the installation of high-tech surveillance cameras to improve security and border control.

Japan also contributes to peacebuilding in Africa through expanded training of industry professionals and coordination between industry, Government and academia.

In order to promote peacebuilding, enhanced cooperation for counter-terrorism is critical. To strengthen counter-terrorism capacity in Africa, I would like to announce here that Japan will implement the assistance of $120 million, including human resource development of 30,000 people, from 2016 to 2018. The purpose of this assistance is to strengthen capacity for information and data collection in Africa. This will include border control at international airports with cutting-edge technologies and for security maintenance, including criminal justice enforcement and the capacity-building of police forces.

We need to break down silos in order to achieve a seamless transition of peacebuilding. The entire United Nations system, national Governments, civil society and all related actors need to work together over the long term.

As a Foreign Minister who comes from Hiroshima, peace is particularly close to my heart. After the Second World War, Japan succeeded in rebuilding its institutions by learning from foreign countries while also maintaining the best parts of its traditional institutions. We will continue to reflect on our experience as we make further efforts for peacebuilding in Africa.

I would like to conclude my remarks by reiterating Japan's strong commitment to contributing to the peace and security of Africa. We will also fully utilize the views expressed in today's debate at the upcoming TICAD VI summit in Nairobi and beyond.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

I shall now give the floor to the other members of the Security Council.

I now call on His Excellency Mr. Anifah Aman, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malaysia.

Mr. Aman (Malaysia): On behalf of the Malaysian delegation, I thank you, Mr. President, and the delegation of Japan for having convened this timely and important debate. This meeting is an excellent opportunity to take stock of and assess the various plans and measures aimed at supporting the peacebuilding agenda as well as the broader peace and security agenda in Africa thus far, as well as the decisions taken by the Council, the United Nations and the wider international community.

The outcome of these discussions should contribute to future efforts in support of the peacebuilding agenda in Africa especially, but also in other regions more generally. As such, we are pleased to note Japan's intention to do so for the sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development.

We greatly appreciate the Secretary-General's briefing, which we believe highlighted his perspective on the key issues and areas that require greater focus and attention. As a concurrent member of both the Council and the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), Malaysia welcomes the participation of Ms. Amina Mohamed in her capacity as the Chair of the PBC, demonstrating Kenya's strong support and commitment to peacebuilding, and I thank her for her statement, which we fully endorse.

I wish also to thank his Excellency Ambassador Smail Chergui for presenting the message of the African Union Peace and Security Commission, which we heard very carefully and with much interest. In aligning with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations statement to be delivered shortly by the Ambassador of Thailand, I wish to make a few additional points to contribute to this discussion.

Mr. President, as you have rightly stated, a sustainable peacebuilding agenda must place a strong emphasis on institution-building and national ownership. From our own experience as a developing country, I can say with absolute certainty that faithful adherence to these two key principles have contributed significantly to strengthening national resilience. At one point in the not-too-distant past, many observers were certain that a country with a population as diverse as Malaysia's could not have achieved coherence or unity, much less peace and stability, which consists of socioeconomic development and progress. However, instead of seeing diversity as a potential security threat, the Government took concrete and sustained measures to ensure that all could enjoy a place at the table. Therefore, we succeeded in turning the perceived disadvantage of our diversity and harnessing it into what it should be rightly taken for, which is strength.

Another important lesson we learned was that developing countries required support and assistance. For many, the natural choice would be to seek out the bigger and rich countries and donors. However, what perhaps may be overlooked is the role that other developing countries can play in supporting fellow developing countries. In that regard, Malaysia's foreign policy includes a commitment to the principle of "prosper thy neighbour". Despite the inconvenience of distance, Malaysia very much considers Africa as a close neighbour. We remain committed to contributing to Africa's continued peace and security, political stability and economic growth, and we endeavour to support this as best as we can, despite our modest resources.

Over the past few decades, Malaysia's engagement with Africa has been increasing steadily, specifically on institution-building and support in areas such as peace and security, trade, investment and holistic development. The primary vehicle for such efforts is through the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), established in 1980. In addition to the direct bilateral engagement through the MTCP, Malaysia also extends cooperation through the MTCP-Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Africa programme. To date, 29,000 participants, many hailing from Africa, have participated in courses and programmes offered under the MTCP.

Our commitment to continued support and assistance to partners in Africa is also premised on the belief that attaining higher levels of development is dependent upon the quality of the human capital, resources and institutions in place. To that end, Malaysia pioneered the concept of smart partnership dialogues with African countries, beginning with the inaugural Langkawi International Dialogue in 1995, which has been held biannually since then. The dialogues aim to promote partnership through engagement at all levels of society, including political leaders, the civil service, business, labour, the media and populations, including women and youth. We are pleased to note that this dialogue concept has gained traction within Africa, which now convenes a similar process of its own known as the Southern Africa International Dialogue.

At the multilateral level, the outcome of the recently concluded peacebuilding architecture review paves the way for the United Nations to better address fragmentation issues, as well as to promote better synergy, coordination and complementarity in the work of the relevant United Nations bodies — anchored by the Peacebuilding Commission and the Security Council — agencies and mechanism towards achieving the core objective of promoting and sustaining peace.

I wish to conclude by welcoming presidential statement S/PRST/2016/12, which was just adopted. I would also like to emphasize that Malaysia remains committed to Africa over the long haul, with a view to contributing towards the region's aspirations for peace, security, economic development and prosperity.

Finally, I wish Japan, Kenya and all participants success at the sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development, to be held later this month.

The President: I now call on His Excellency Mr. Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti, Minister for External Relations of Angola.

Mr. Chikoti (Angola): We congratulate Japan for the manner in which it has been conducting the Security Council during its presidency for the month of July. Angola applauds Japan's decision to convene this important meeting on the theme of peacebuilding in Africa, thus translating Japan's commitment to cooperation with the African continent, as reflected in the series of Tokyo International Conferences on African Development dating back to 1993. May I also thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his insightful remarks, as well as Minister Amina Mohamed of Kenya and the Commissioner for Peace and Security for their briefings.

At the 2005 World Summit, the United Nations established the Peacebuilding Commission, the Peacebuilding Fund and the Peacebuilding Support Office. The 10-year review of what we refer to as the United Nations peacebuilding architecture concluded in April with the concurrent adoption of identical resolutions by the General Assembly and the Security Council. Ten years ago, at the African Union Summit held in Banjul, African Governments adopted a policy framework on post-conflict reconstruction and development to guide its work in support of countries emerging from conflict in Africa. More recently, to better respond to the challenges facing African countries emerging from conflict, the African Union Commission launched in 2012 the African Solidarity Initiative, aimed at mobilizing resources for post-conflict reconstruction and development. I mention those efforts to advance the peacebuilding agenda, both at the United Nations and at the African Union, in order to underline the fact that peacebuilding is being accorded the required priority in the midst of other competing issues on the international agenda.

Today's debate on peacebuilding in Africa allows members of the Security Council and the broader United Nations membership an opportunity to reflect on challenges faced by African countries emerging from conflict in the transition from war to peace, the priorities for peacebuilding at the national level and, in particular, the role of the United Nations. Resolution 2282 (2016) and General Assembly resolution 70/262, adopted in April, of which Australia and Angola were facilitators, define conflict prevention as the key element in peacebuilding. They also includes activities running through all phases aimed at preventing the outbreak, escalation, persistence and recurrence of conflict, as well as addressing roots causes, assisting the parties to end hostilities, ensuring national reconciliation and moving towards recovery, reconstruction and development.

All elements of that definition are important, as they underscore institution-building as the fundamental prerequisite for a successful peacebuilding process.

It is widely understood that the existence of conflicts versus efficient institutions differentiate capable from fragile States. Therefore, institution-building must be accorded the highest priority in any peacebuilding effort. Countries emerging from conflict need to build institutions that help ensure individuals' safety, reform the security sector, revitalize their economies, provide social services, support national reconciliation and political cohesion and establish the rule of law.

In spite of the constraints imposed by a lengthy armed conflict that lasted nearly 30 years and caused widespread devastation, Angola has been implementing a development model through a broad national reconciliation process launched in 2002, leading to the approval of the Constitution of the Republic in 2010, which reaffirmed the rule of law and democracy, extending rights and freedoms to all citizens and ensuring the participation of all in the democratic process. This national resolve has enabled the Angolan Government to secure gains that are recognized at the subregional, regional and international levels. In this regard, I would like to refer to the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), which Angola currently chairs, and comment on the initiatives being undertaken under the auspices of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC).

Angola remains strongly committed to the central role that preventive diplomacy plays in the resolution of conflicts in the Great Lakes region. Angola also strongly believes in the urgent need to put the Great Lakes region on the path towards sustainable development through the promotion of investments, international cooperation and support to help this huge market enjoy the peace dividend. The Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework, established to support the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Region, is an important tool for achieving the aforementioned requirements and must be supported, together with the ICGLR Regional Initiative Against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources.

The Kinshasa Private Sector Investment Conference for the Great Lakes Region, held on 24 and 25 February, brought awareness not only to the investment opportunities offered by the region but also to what the region needs to do to improve the business environment, which includes implementing wide-reaching social reforms, promoting transparency, encouraging business incentives and establishing anti-corruption programmes. I should like here to thank the Secretary-General for his commitment to Africa and for convening that conference.

In search of peaceful solutions to political crises and conflicts in the Great Lakes region, Angola has helped to promote the launch of the Guarantors of the Peace, Cooperation and Security Framework mechanism, led by the United Nations, with the participation of ICGLR and the Southern African Development Community; the Private Sector Investment Conference for the Great Lakes Region, held in Kinshasa; and the decision urging the South Sudanese leaders and people to put aside their differences and work for the implementation of the peace agreement in South Sudan.

Concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo, ICGLR reiterated the need to combat negative forces and to complete the preparation for the presidential and legislative elections in a peaceful, credible, inclusive and transparent manner, in accordance with the Constitution of the country. Regarding Burundi, ICGLR reiterated the call for an inclusive and transparent dialogue to discuss all issues that pose a threat to the integrity, security and peace of that country.

We recognize the important work the Peacebuilding Commission is doing in the consolidation of peace in several African countries. The PBC played a crucial role in the fight against the Ebola outbreak in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, and is promoting post-Ebola recovery in collaboration with the Economic Community of West African States and other international, regional, bilateral and multilateral partners.

We would like to underline the importance of financing for peacebuilding. In countries emerging from conflict, financial support is crucial to achieving many of the lofty and laudable goals associated with peacebuilding. Even the most carefully crafted and best-designed peacebuilding programme will fail if the financial resources to implement its various components are not provided in a timely manner. Political consensus among national stakeholders and the commitment of Governments are essential ingredients of peacebuilding. However, unless financial resources are provided to implement priority programmes for which political consensus and commitment exist, peacebuilding efforts can easily be derailed.

I would like to issue a cautionary note to the Council. Peacebuilding is a complex process encompassing many priorities and involving many stakeholders. More importantly, the hierarchy of priorities varies from country to country. An election, while being decisive for a nation emerging from conflict and a tool for the consolidation of democratic institutions, is not in itself the solution for consolidating peace in a post-conflict country, since weak institutions and economic stagnation go hand in hand with relapse into conflict. Furthermore, unless institutional capacity-building and economic recovery are addressed first, a relapse into conflict is the most probable outcome, in particular when the election results are challenged by the losing parties.

Post-conflict countries must build strong institutions and revitalize their economies in order to enable their Governments to meet the socioeconomic needs of their people by creating job opportunities and providing social services and the necessary conditions for the well-being of their population. Governments in post-conflict countries must gain legitimacy through their performance and ability to deliver results and by adequately resolving the socioeconomic problems of their people.

To conclude, it is clear that financial assistance is central to peacebuilding in post-conflict countries in order to support the implementation of concrete social programmes, while bearing in mind the importance of national ownership, in which the national authorities in post-conflict countries lead the way in the establishment of peacebuilding priorities.

The President: I now give the floor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad of Senegal.

Mr. Ndiaye (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I would like to congratulate you personally, Mr. President, and your Government for acceding to the presidency of the Security Council this month and to thank you for convening this high-level ministerial meeting on an issue that is of great concern to us as an African country. Allow me also to thank and congratulate Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, as well as our briefers, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kenya, Ms. Amina Chawahir Mohamed, and the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, Mr. Smail Chergui, for their important statements, to which Senegal fully subscribes.

Taking stock of our efforts to promote peace and security in Africa, it is regrettable that the bulk of those efforts is devoted to peacebuilding in post-conflict situations. Despite the continued engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission in Africa for over a decade now, as well as the commendable efforts of the African Union and African subregional organizations, several African countries in crisis or emerging from crisis remain vulnerable and are still struggling to achieve lasting stability. The fact that all six countries on the Peacebuilding Commission's agenda are African is sufficiently illustrative. This fragility, which is partly the result of factors whose root causes are not always easy to grasp, casts doubt on the effectiveness of peacebuilding strategies developed several decades, particularly in Africa.

Clearly, a new approach to the way we work to consolidate peace — as the conclusions of the report of the Advisory Group of Experts (S/2015/490) on the review of the peacebuilding architecture suggest — is essential if we are to be more effective and to attain sustainable results. Thus, taking into account the specificity of each country and each situation, we must mark a break in our approach, focusing on strategies and actions aimed at creating conditions conducive to the emergence of resilient societies and States able to address the challenges of sustainable peace. Without a doubt, this will require us to redefine the order of priorities in our actions and strategies. In that regard, I would particularly like to emphasize four basic directions that should guide, it seems to us, our efforts if we wish to achieve meaningful results.

We must first invest more in prevention by also addressing the root causes of conflicts in Africa. The tools at our disposal in this regard are certainly many, but too often it is the political will that is lacking and that becomes an obstacle to any early action, particularly by the Security Council. This has often resulted in late interventions or reactions after the fact, which have sometimes been ineffective and very expensive.

Moreover, beyond the cyclical causes, our actions must also move towards resolving the root causes of conflict, the only guarantee of lasting solutions. Make no mistake; the efficiency and effectiveness of our action will depend largely on our ability to prevent conflicts and emerging threats. It is no coincidence that the comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, the review of the peacebuilding architecture and the review of the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security all converge on the need to give a new impetus to prevention. Obviously, the cross-cutting dimension of prevention calls for building synergies between these three complementary reviews, with a view to developing coherent and holistic strategies and approaches to promoting sustainable peace. In order to achieve a lasting peace, we must give primacy to political solutions.

That is why we must improve our prevention and mediation tools by setting up more effective strategies. Admittedly, under Article 33 of the Charter, the responsibility for prevention lies with Member States. But the Organization — particularly the Security Council, which has the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security — has a crucial role to play in that regard. This brings me to welcome the Council's adoption just before this debate of the presidential statement on the United Nations Office in West Africa and the Sahel region (S/PRST/2016/11). The success of the Office's activities teaches us that preventive diplomacy is within reach if it is backed by the strong political will of the leaders of the region with the constant support of the African Union and the United Nations. This is the intrinsic reality of good-neighbour diplomacy as we try to develop it in Senegal.

The African Union and African regional organizations are actively involved in mediation and conflict prevention in Africa. Thanks to their interventions, several crises and tensions have been defused at an early stage. Better still, with the establishment of its peace and security architecture, the African Union has made clear its ambition to play a more active role in conflict prevention. I therefore call for greater support for efforts to operationalize the peace and security architecture.

This brings me to the second point of my speech, namely, strengthening cooperation with the African Union and African subregional organizations. Incidentally, it should be noted that the lessons learned from peace consolidation in Africa reveal the crucial role they play in this area. The example of the involvement of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), particularly in Guinea-Bissau and several other countries of the subregion, in collaboration with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for West Africa and other regional and international partners, is quite illustrative of the importance of this action.

Another important issue to consider in the framework of enhanced cooperation with the African Union and subregional organizations is coordinating the activities of the various actors involved in the process of consolidating peace in Africa, with a view to promoting concerted and coherent actions. Greater interaction between the Peacebuilding Commission and the relevant organs of the African Union would promote better coordination and streamlining of efforts on the ground. Furthermore, joint assessments of the nature and challenges of peacebuilding in Africa, as well as ongoing dialogue on the best way to harmonize support to countries on the peacebuilding agenda, are other actions that may give more added value to this cooperation.

The third point I would like to address today is the management of the transition to sustainable peace. We all agree that the success of this critical phase of peace consolidation is a fundamental element in preventing renewed conflict, while providing a guarantee of lasting stability. We have learned from the experience of countries coming out of conflict that the transition to sustainable peace is a very demanding undertaking, one that, moreover, requires planning at an early stage. Such planning should duly take into account the conditions and goals that must be met to end a peacekeeping operation and to safeguard the transition to an integrated peacebuilding office or some other arrangement. In that respect, it is important to guarantee from the outset that peace missions can create the conditions for a smooth transition, drawdown and withdrawal without compromising efforts to attain the long-term goals of peace and stability.

To that end, we should start developing peacebuilding activities in the early stages of missions, directing efforts towards strengthening national capacities and addressing the deeper structural and socioeconomic problems that these countries often face, while promoting an ongoing political dialogue and effective coordination between the various stakeholders. Steps should be taken to create the conditions for the transfer of functions to the countries concerned as soon as peacekeeping operations withdraw.

I would also like to emphasize the importance of maintaining and strengthening support and assistance for countries in transition to peace so that they can continue to benefit from the attention of the international community, particularly in terms of receiving sustainable and predictable funding. While countries emerging from conflict require significant funding over long periods, it is clear that that funding is limited, irregular and unpredictable. However, in order for peace to be durable, the restoration of security must go hand in hand with economic development.

The lessons learned from the consolidation process in Guinea Bissau, in particular, give us the full measure of this dimension. The example of the ECOWAS Mission in Guinea-Bissau (ECOMIB) is a case study that documents the difficulties that regional and subregional African organizations face in financing peacebuilding measures. Here, we would like to welcome the valuable support of the European Union, without which ECOMIB could not continue its work in Guinea-Bissau today.

Countries involved in peacebuilding are still politically fragile. Their institutions are often weak, their economies are vulnerable, and their young people face the challenges of idleness and unemployment. These are often countries where everything has to be rebuilt. The challenges they face in the peacebuilding process are enormous, as is their need of assistance. They require assistance with electoral affairs, judicial and security sector reform, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, strengthening the health and education systems, relaunching activity, and supporting agriculture and job creation, particularly for the young.

Meeting these challenges is a complex undertaking that cannot be successful without a comprehensive, coherent and coordinated approach by the various actors and stakeholders in the peacebuilding process. The adoption of an identical resolution by the General Assembly (resolution 70/262) and the Security Council (resolution 2282 (2016)) on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture represents a historic step in that it reflects a desire to make a break in our approach to peacebuilding. The resolution sets the parameters for developing more coordinated, comprehensive and coherent strategies capable of laying the true foundations for a lasting peace as it addresses the areas of peace, development and human rights. These strategies should now focus on strengthening synergies so as to ensure greater impact on the ground. This is where the relevance of the concept of the sustainability of peace is found.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that resolution 2282 (2016) is an important step forward in our efforts to adapt the peacebuilding architecture to today's challenges and that we should now mobilize further in order to implement it effectively.

Ms. Power (United States of America): I thank Secretary-General Ban, Minister Mohamed and Commissioner Chergui for their briefings. I offer thanks to each of them as well as to the Ministers who have shown the importance of the issue before us by making the long trip here to New York. We are very grateful.

Preventing conflicts and promoting stability in Africa is obviously an immensely important subject for the Security Council to focus on. The list of political, economic and social factors to debate is long, as is the list of tools that we have at our disposal. But at a moment when conflicts are re-emerging in Africa and too many other States are on the brink, the Council needs to do more than debate lessons learned. It needs to reaffirm the principles that are fundamental to ending conflicts and take concrete steps to translate them into practice.

National ownership of peacebuilding processes is important, as many speakers have highlighted today and as many more speakers will continue to do. But national ownership cannot be a pretext for the Council or the international community to defer reflexively to Governments when we know their practices are undermining or failing to enhance peace and security. And this happens too often. Especially when the Council authorizes major peacekeeping missions to restore stability, we must hold political leaders accountable for committing to the process of stopping violence, abiding by the rule of law and strengthening State institutions. I will set up the importance of sustaining political will across the different stages of the peacebuilding process, drawing upon South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia as examples.

First, the violence in South Sudan this past month shows what happens when political leaders fail to commit to peace at the start of a peacebuilding intervention. In just four days of fighting in Juba, from 7 to 11 July, more than 36,000 people were displaced. The United Nations reported that the number of refugees who arrived in Uganda from South Sudan on 21 July was the largest single day total for this conflict in more than two years — some 8,337 new arrivals, many of whom had spent days on foot, often with little more than the clothes on their backs, to reach safety. Women and children make up more than 90 per cent of the refugees who have left South Sudan since 7 July.

The international community has spent billions of dollars trying to avert a famine in the country, money that, if not for this man-made conflict, a conflict that contributes to severe acute malnutrition, prevents planting and stymies the economy completely, could have been dedicated to building roads, economic development, girls' education and boys' education; it has been a total waste. And yet we have to continue to mobilize resources to try to keep this long-suffering population living with some basic dignity and living — surviving — in the first place.

Gruesome atrocities are being committed daily, with civilians targeted and killed, women raped, homes looted and destroyed. Both Government- and opposition-affiliated soldiers have been implicated in these horrors. Yet there has been no effort to hold the perpetrators accountable, which then compounds the tendency to ascribe collective guilt, which in turn fuels ethnic targeting, which in turn further fuels the cycle of violence. Amid all of the foregoing, to quote a 42-year-old from South Sudan named James Benjamin Wani, who asked a simple question of a reporter after days of fighting in Juba: "Why do our leaders not want to sit down and solve their problems? Let them hear us. Let them cry. We do not want fighting. We want peace."

The level of misrepresentation of the population by leadership that will not commit to the implementation of the steps that the international community has rallied behind is clear. For years we have been asking questions similar to those asked by this 42-year-old man. In 2011, we invested heavily in South Sudan's future by giving the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) a mandate to assist the State at all levels — building institutions, fostering economic development, reforming the security sector and promoting human rights. At every step the Mission sought to collaborate closely with the Government of South Sudan, taking pains to avoid imposing solutions. UNMISS was designed with peacebuilding best practices in mind. It was South Sudan's leaders who failed to live up to their end of the bargain by being unable to put their personal power struggles aside.

We now have to come together as a Council, as an international community, around a single approach to end the violence in South Sudan and, more importantly, to prevent its recurrence. In the immediate term, this means working with and present South Sudan's leadership to provide for security in Juba, to safeguard freedom of movement and to provide for unfettered humanitarian access. It also means answering the calls of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the African Union for strengthening UNMISS so that the Mission can better protect civilians and help establish a secure environment so the parties can in fact make political progress.

Restoring security in Juba may be necessary but we all know it is far from sufficient. South Sudan's leaders must govern on behalf of their people and demonstrate the political will for peace. In practical terms, the parties need to carry out the reform pillars in the August 2015 Peace Agreement, professionalizing the security sector, carrying out economic reforms, promoting justice and accountability and drafting a constitution. What all of this underscores is that peacebuilding, as others have noted, is itself a form of conflict prevention, and it is one form that collectively we need to double down on in a country where too much tragedy has been happening for too long. This formula is not revolutionary or even new; the difference is that the members of the Security Council, together with partners in the region and the international community, must redouble our collective efforts to influence the choices made every day by individuals who comprise the South Sudanese leadership.

On the Democratic Republic of the Congo, we have a country now entering a later phase of its peacebuilding process as it prepares for elections. Further progress depends on President Joseph Kabila's political commitment to upholding the Constitution. The Congolese have spent many years building a relative peace with the support of billions of dollars invested in the peacekeeping mission there, that is, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic People's Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). President Kabila is barred from running for a third time when his term expires at the end of the year but there are serious concerns that elections will not be held in accordance with the Constitution.

As the deadline for elections approaches, instability, as we have seen, is growing, which is why the United States has stressed the need for an environment that supports international efforts to bring Congolese stakeholders together to determine a way forward. And yet, at precisely the moment a dialogue is needed to resolve these tensions, the Government is closing off space for the political opposition and civil-society groups to assemble and has not taken adequate steps to release political prisoners.

In recent months, the Government has continued to harass and imprison politicians and civil-society activists, and peaceful protests have all too often ended with arbitrary arrests, injuries and even death. According to United Nations reports, the Government arbitrarily detained dozens of people during opposition rallies in April and May, and clashes between protesters and security forces led to deaths and injuries on both sides. With major rallies planned for this very week, and with the return of opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi yesterday, we call on the Government and security forces to respect the fundamental rights of citizens to peaceful assembly. Again, that is not a matter of purely domestic concern, but is an extension of the objectives that the Council has supported since MONUSCO deployed six years ago to help build a fragile peace.

Thirdly, and finally, Somalia's leaders have to show the political will to extend State authority and develop functioning democratic institutions. The Federal Government must match the achievements of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in building security with commensurate steps to build institutions to keep people safe.

AMISOM's troop contributors deserve the Council's immense gratitude for the Mission's ability to improve security for the Somali people, especially around the capital. Their sacrifices, especially over the last year, have been mind-blowing. The United States condemns in the strongest terms the attack this past week by Al-Shabaab on the United Nations base at the Mogadishu international Airport — just the latest in a wave of heinous attacks.

AMISOM has a critical role to play, as the Security Council has recognized and endorsed, but the Government does as well. And that is why the Council's interest in Somalia does not end with AMISOM's performance. Just as in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia has made progress towards a durable peace based on the success of the political steps taken by the Government. The Council should welcome the agreement on an electoral model for 2016 and encourage its swift implementation as a step towards universal direct elections by 2020. Yet for that process to succeed, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and his Government must accelerate the training of the Somali national army and the process of building State institutions, and all of us must, of course, chip in to support the Government as they do that. In particular, the Government needs to strengthen the protection of human rights, including by showing respect for free expression and the media and by holding security forces accountable when they commit violations.

We all know that the conditions in Somalia and the circumstances and the steps that I have described are not only difficult but downright daunting. And they will, of course, take time. But military victories alone will not bring peace, unless the Government takes concrete steps to establish peace and extend its reach.

While South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia each face very different challenges, the common principle is that success in peacebuilding requires political will. There are only so many workarounds that the region and the Security Council can come up with.The Council has authorized a peacekeeping mission for each of those countries in order to help restore stability; but at every stage, the Council has to remain focused on taking steps to ensure that leaders make choices in the service of peace.

Amid the violence in South Sudan, the BBC reported recently that a group of musicians called the "All Stars" gathered to write a song speaking out against revenge killing. The song, written in multiple South Sudanese dialects, includes the lyric "I wish my talent could be a weapon. I would use it to protect my people."

There are so many South Sudanese who share that group's desire to protect people from conflict just to keep their families safe. We must harness our tools to help create an environment in which such talent can be harnessed and in which peace can, at last, take hold.

Mr. Vallini (France) (*spoke in French*): I thank the Japanese presidency for organizing this open debate on peacebuilding in Africa and for its initiative on behalf of presidential statement S/PRST/2016/12, which we have just adopted.

Given its historical ties with the continent, France cannot remain indifferent towards anything taking place in Africa. Each time it is needed, France has assumed its responsibilities in Africa. When Bamako ran the risk of falling into the hands of terrorists, we shouldered our responsibility. When the threat of genocide arose in the Central African Republic, we assumed our responsibilities. Faced with the ongoing conflicts in Somalia, the Sudan, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, we are also assuming our responsibilities.

For France, engagement in Africa does not mean acting on its own or as it alone sees fit. For France, being engaged in Africa does not mean acting unilaterally; it means acting first at the request of and with our African partners, and, of course, acting in accordance with international law. All of the military interventions undertaken by President François Hollande were authorized by, and have included the participation of, the African Union and the United Nations. Moreover, engaging in Africa does not mean intervening militarily and then leaving the country and its people to take care of themselves. It means standing beside them and supporting them along the path to security, democracy and human development.

Security in the African continent is our primary goal. I would mention Operation Barkhane in the Sahel, particularly in Mali, where the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali is also deployed. I am also thinking about our continuing presence in the Central African Republic, alongside the African Union's African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

We also support the African peacekeeping operations, and I would refer in particular of the joint multinational force in the Lake Chad region, which was agreed upon at the Paris summit on security in Nigeria, in connection with the fight against Boko Haram. France has devoted significant human and logistical resources to the African countries that have been targeted by that terrorist group.

The primary responsibility of every State is to guarantee the safety of its citizens and protect its population. That requires sufficient numbers of well-trained and well-equipped police and military forces. That is why France has been cooperating on security issues, especially in the Sahel countries, in order to enable Africans to ensure their own safety to the greatest extent possible on their own. We have been training more than 20,000 African soldiers each year in France and Africa and have also been playing an active role in deploying European security missions in Africa — for example, in the Central African Republic.

After security comes democracy. Security should never be pursued at the expense of respect for the rule of law. The protecting human rights, strengthening democratic institutions, combating impunity and establishing good governance are imperative. In that context, the holding of fair and transparent elections is highly important, and France strongly supports the African Union regulations that oppose late and non-consensual changes to a country's Constitution, especially when the purpose of such changes is to prevent a democratic change.

France has always mobilized in defence of human rights. We have just renewed and strengthened the mandate of MINUSCA, which is deployed in the Central African Republic and which we consider multidimensional. In fact, our goal is not only the physical protection of civilians, but also the rule of law, the fight against impunity, good governance and strengthening the State's authority throughout the territory as it seeks to address the threat of armed groups. In that context, on 26 and 27 October in Paris, France will organize a ministerial conference on peacekeeping in the Francophone community.

Finally, after security and democracy, which act to support peacebuilding, I would like to discuss human development. In that regard, I would like to focus some comments on education. Education, as we all know, is the foundation of development, whether the issue involves health, the environment, women's rights, the fight against extremism or democratic governance. Everything depends on education, everything starts with education. No country has truly taken off until 80 per cent of its population has completed primary school. The progress made over the past 15 years is considerable.

Let us measure it: the number of children not attending school worldwide has been halved. However, major challenges remain owing to the crises, the chronic under-funding and, of course, the population explosion. Today, 60 million children around the world are totally deprived of education. By 2030, we will have to enrol more than 600 million additional children, including 450 million in Africa, and the investment needs are huge. They amount to $40 billion per year. We must therefore shift the balance, and the international community must reinvest substantially and urgently in quality education, especially in Africa, as it was able to do in health.

That is why I welcome the work of the commission led by Gordon Brown, upon the initiative in Ban Ki-moon, particularly with respect to education in emergency situations, which is key to maintaining peace in Africa. Crises disrupt social cohesion and undermine the ability of States to rebuild. They are preventing 75 million children today from attending school normally. The Education Cannot Wait fund, set up at the Global Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, provides a first response.

In conclusion, conflicts are not inevitable in Africa. Let us see the continent as a whole, bearing in mind not only the failures but also the successes of Africans and the international community in many areas, which offer the promise that Africa will one day be a continent of peace.

Mr. Van Bohemen (New Zealand): I thank you, Sir, for presiding over this important debate today. I also wish to acknowledge the presence of the other Ministers.

The Secretary-General, Cabinet Secretary Mohamed and Commissioner Chergui have each thoughtfully laid out important issues that we must address as we seek to give life to the United Nations peacebuilding efforts in Africa. Many of those themes are addressed in presidential statement S/PRST/2016/12, which we have adopted today under Japan's leadership. I want to now comment on a few of those themes.

The peacebuilding architecture was established a decade ago to address what former Secretary-General Kofi Annan described as a gaping hole in the United Nations capacity to support countries transitioning from violent conflict to sustainable peace. There has been progress since then, including through the recognition that peacebuilding must underlie the whole of the conflict cycle and this year's resolutions on sustaining peace. But, as last year's review by the Advisory Group of Experts found, there continue to be serious systemic shortcomings.

We recognize that peacebuilding is a task that extends well beyond the mandate and responsibility of the Security Council, but supporting effective peacebuilding is core to the Council's role of maintaining international peace and security. And what the Council does in this area is critical to the success of work of the other actors in peacebuilding. Yet fragmentation of approaches across the United Nations and the wider international effort continues to be a major obstacle. We wish to reiterate key areas where we believe the Council must do better, not just in Africa but especially in Africa.

First, the Council needs to play a more deliberate and active role in peacebuilding. Council-mandated missions contribute directly to creating an enabling environment for peacebuilding by providing security and political stability, by facilitating reconciliation and accountability, and by supporting governance. These mutually reinforcing peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts are most effective when they are planned and considered from the very earliest stages of a mission. What the Council does in mandating and ensuring the implementation of peacebuilding tasks and in mobilizing the necessary resources is critical to the success of post-conflict efforts. Making the peace stick is key to avoiding another conflict spiral.

Secondly, the Council needs to do its part to ensure that the institutions of governance, security, and economy that are central to peacebuilding are supported by a wide range of organizations. Better coordination with other peacebuilding contributors — including United Nations agencies, international financial institutions, regional and bilateral partners, and donors — is crucial. This is especially the case as operating environments change. We welcome the inclusion of language encouraging such cooperation in the recent resolution 2301 (2016), renewing the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic. We hope to see similar provisions included in other relevant peacekeeping missions.

Even when they are well coordinated, peacebuilding efforts suffer when the Mission's activities are unable to be sustained beyond the life of the mission. As we have seen in countries like Guinea-Bissau, emerging from conflict and fragility is a long process; it requires equally long-term engagement by the international community. If we look at South Sudan or other situations, too often we focus on a fragile and conflict-affected State only as long as it takes to resolve the immediate crisis. Too often, our attention and resources are pulled to the next crisis.

Thirdly, the Council needs to ensure that the host State in particular takes early joint ownership and leadership of relevant peacebuilding activities. That does not mean that host Governments can dictate the course of the peacebuilding effort, for all of the reasons identified by Ambassador Power. The horrific problems we are seeing in South Sudan only reinforce the point that national ownership is the greatest determinant of the success or failure of peacebuilding efforts. As a means of building public confidence in the State, United Nations missions should aim to reinforce national ownership by assisting but not displacing the delivery of critical services. They should plan for peacebuilding activities to transition to the host State as soon as possible. In this context, we also reiterate our support for resident coordinators to focus on ensuring the continuity of peacebuilding efforts during such transitions.

Additionally, ongoing national commitments to peacebuilding and political stability require the vocal support of the Council and regional organizations and ensuring that local leaders deliver on their promises. The African Union and the regional economic communities, such as the Economic Community of West African States and the Southern African Development Community, have demonstrated the important role they can play in encouraging political leaders to maintain their commitments to peacebuilding. The Security Council should support these efforts and more actively seek the views of regional organizations on African peacebuilding. In so doing, we should seek to enhance regional ownership of peacebuilding in Africa.

Finally, the peacebuilding architecture is a valuable framework for sustaining peace in Africa. As we have emphasized regularly, there is room for improving interaction between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Security Council. We need to be much more joined up. Maintaining a significant disconnect between our respective efforts because of artificial ideological constructs about the respective roles of the Council and the Peacebuilding Commission is a major impediment to our shared objective of sustainable peace.

We reiterate our strong support for close Council engagement and meaningful dialogue with country configurations, moving beyond the briefings to which we are currently constrained. This could be accomplished through informal formats if necessary, similar to informal consultations with troop-contributing countries. We also believe that it makes sense for country configuration chairs to participate in Council missions where feasible and where interests overlap.

The themes I have covered are not new. Our task is to translate them into a greater and clearer sense of purpose in the way the Council and other stakeholders support peacebuilding. The Council's readiness to tackle the challenges of peacebuilding in Africa will be judged by the results; in our willingness to prioritize the long-term sustainability of peacebuilding efforts; in our willingness to work more closely with regional organizations and the Peacebuilding Commission; and in our willingness to encourage greater coordination and longer-term planning of the peacebuilding activities we authorize.

Mr. Liu Jieyi (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China thanks you, Sir, for convening today's open debate. Our thanks also go to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Foreign Minister Mohamed of Kenya and African Union (AU) Commissioner Chergui for their briefings.

Ten days ago, the United Nations celebrated Nelson Mandela International Day, commemorating the enormous contribution made by that great statesman to peace in Africa. Africa today is full of vigour. Joining hands towards self-improvement and the pursuit of peace and development is now the main theme heard throughout the continent. African peace and development are critical to the security, stability and common prosperity of the entire world.

Peacebuilding — which spans the political, security and development realms — can offer important support to Africa's efforts to achieve lasting peace and sustainable development. The world today is facing growing challenges from terrorism. Terrorist attacks occur frequently and in many locations, resulting in heavy casualties and damage. Africa is also a victim of terrorism. Some countries and regions continue to suffer from conflict and war. As traditional and non-traditional security threats are interlinked, effectively enhancing peacebuilding in Africa to tangibly help the continent achieve lasting peace is a major challenge for the international community. In that regard, China would like to make the following points.

First, it is imperative to vigorously help Africa to respond to the challenge of terrorism. Africa's counter-terrorism efforts are an important part of the global fight against terrorism. The international community should apply a uniform standard on counter-terrorism, support the counter-terrorism efforts in Africa and resolutely combat terrorist activities regardless of their pretexts, targets and means. The United Nations should concretely help African countries to enhance their counter-terrorism capacity-building, prioritize that endeavour and provide more substantive assistance to African countries.

Secondly, with regard to respecting the independent choices of African countries, Africa belongs to the African people, and an African approach is the more effective and feasible way of resolving African problems. Peacebuilding in Africa should abide by the principles of national ownership and respect for the sovereignty and will of the countries concerned, while avoiding imposing outside will on them. The United Nations should align its priorities with those of African countries and be empathetic and concentrate on resolving the issues deemed most urgent by the countries concerned. When it comes to peacebuilding activities, United Nations special political missions should strictly abide by their respective mandates and division of responsibilities in order to avoid duplication of effort and trying to take on all things at the same time, so as to strike a comprehensive balance between efficiency and benefits.

Thirdly, with regard to letting regional organizations play an active role, the African Union and the relevant subregional organizations have in-depth knowledge of the countries in the region and their peacebuilding needs. They have long mediated and dealt with complex conflicts and possess unique geographical, historical and cultural advantages. We also support African countries in proposing holistic peacebuilding strategies from a regional perspective. We support the AU's peacebuilding initiatives, such as its policy on post-conflict reconstruction and development and the African solidarity initiative, as well as an active role for regional mechanisms.

Fourthly, with regard to helping Africa resolve development issues, peace is the fundamental guarantee for development. Many post-conflict African countries face multiple challenges in the areas of the economy, infrastructure, reconstruction, poverty elimination, employment, education, public health and social security. The international community should work hard to help the countries concerned achieve early economic recovery and, through industrialization, agriculture modernization and human resources development, help Africa's peoples enjoy a peace dividend at an early date.

China is committed to an African policy and concept based on sincerity, delivering outcomes, affinity, good faith and a proper approach to justice and interests, and has steadfastly supported peace and development in Africa. China has participated in 16 United Nations peacekeeping operations in African. At the moment, there are more than 2,600 Chinese peacekeepers deployed in Africa. Over the past two months, three young Chinese keepers gave their precious lives for peace in Africa.

The Johannesburg Forum on China-Africa Cooperation proposed 10 cooperation programmes, including in the areas of industrialization cooperation, agricultural modernization, infrastructure development, financial cooperation, green development, trade and investment facilitation, poverty elimination to benefit the people, public health, culture and people-to-people exchanges, and peace and security cooperation. China is moving forward to comprehensively implement those plans.

Over the next five years, China will provide AU $100 million in gratis military assistance to support the setting up of the African Standby Force and the Crisis Rapid Response Force, including for the training of 2,000 peacekeepers from around the world, including from Africa. China stands ready to work with the rest of the international community to continue to make our contribution to the maintenance of peace and security in Africa and to promote its development.

Mr. Ramírez Carreño (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): First and foremost, allow me to commend you, Mr. President, on the holding of this important open debate on peacebuilding in Africa. I also thank you for your presence here at the helm of the presidency of the Security Council. We express our gratitude for the briefings by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon; Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Amina Chawahir Mohamed, in her capacity as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission; and Mr. Smail Chergui, Commissioner for Peace Security of the African Union.

We Venezuelans share a close bond with Africa, and as such we cannot but reflect on what is happening on the continent. Following the end of colonialism, Africa has benefited from unprecedented economic growth and has made substantial progress in meeting the Millennium Development Goals, especially those concerning education, women's empowerment and combating HIV/AIDS and other diseases. The continent has also made progress in strengthening its governance institutions at the national, subregional and regional levels. Nevertheless, Africa still faces major challenges, such as reducing poverty, inequality and exclusion, as well as in promoting sustainable economic growth through its own model. Like Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa suffers from the scourge of organized crime, drug trafficking and trafficking in small arms and light weapons and human beings. That is in addition to the armed conflicts that still affect some countries in the region.

Against the backdrop of that situation, it is fair to ask ourselves the extent to which Africa's colonial past weighs on its future. The truth is that for most Africans European colonialism was exploitative, violent and illegal, and the subsequent development of Africa is tied to that legacy. By the logic of domination, colonial Powers came to enslave, plunder resources and exploit existing differences between various leaders and communities for their own benefit. Groups that had historically been united were separated, and vice versa. One of the biggest mistakes was not to understand that tribal identities were only one of many by which Africans identified themselves, such as ancestry, clan and occupation. The result was the drawing of artificial boundaries lacking a proper sense of nationhood.

The legacy of exploitation still weighs on African peoples, while a colony — Western Sahara — still suffers the indignities of oppression. Africa today continues to be the victim of armed intervention by Western Powers, such as took place in Libya in 2011, which resulted in great destabilization and uncertainty in the entire region, including the proliferation of small arms and light weapons among terrorists and violent non-State actors. We should also mention the negative impact of unilateral sanctions against African countries, as is the case of the sanctions imposed by the European Union, as well as the fact that more than 60 per cent of United Nations sanctions committees focus on the region.

Instead, what we should do is to promote cooperation, dialogue and respect for the principles of sovereignty and the self-determination of peoples. The great task facing African leaders is to continue, as they have been doing for many years, to change the system they inherited from the former colonial Powers on which they were dependent, and pave a truly African path forward in the full exercise of their sovereignty and self-determination of their people.

To confront those challenges, the African countries have gradually developed a peace and security architecture of their own. The African Union therefore represents the legitimate forum for dealing with African affairs. Through its institutions, such as the Peace and Security Council, the Continental Early Warning System, the Panel of the Wise, the African Standby Force, the Peace Fund and its policy frameworks, such as the African solidarity initiative and that of post-conflict reconstruction and development, the African Union has laying the groundwork for peacebuilding in the continent. It is our responsibility to support the African Union as the legitimate organization of the region, as well as relevant subregiongal forums.

Since 2005, the Peacebuilding Commission has been assisting African countries emerging from conflict to overcome the destructive legacy of war. Currently, six African countries are on the Commission's agenda. Furthermore, 18 of the 33 countries that benefit from the Peacebuilding Fund are on the African continent. Support for these entities is geared towards, inter alia, modernizing the State, building administrative and management capacity, building democratic institutions, restoring the rule of law, providing public services, creating jobs, reducing poverty and reintegrating vulnerable groups.

As noted by presidential statement S/PRST/2016/12, adopted today, the purpose of peacebuilding must be to build institutional and human capacities enabling States to overcome the root causes that have led or could lead to further conflict. The support of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund has helped some States to leave behind the legacy of war and embark on the path towards peace and development. In other cases, their efforts have been insufficient and old conflicts have broken out again. With the adoption of resolution 2282 (2016) and General Assembly resolution 70/262, the United Nations has taken a meaningful step forward to a more comprehensive understanding of peacebuilding that emphasizes conflict prevention and the primacy of politics in the peaceful settlement of disputes. Through the implementation of these resolutions, we hope to leave military intervention forever behind to make way for approaches aimed at achieving political solutions and developing nations.

One critical area that has lagged in the work of United Nations peacebuilding is the mobilization of international resources and the creation of national resources for sustaining peace. The mobilization of resources is vital to deliver the dividends of peace, including job creation, providing public services, building strong political institutions and providing justice. Without the ability to mobilize and generate resources sustainably and to provide them equitably, a State emerging from conflict will encounter serious difficulties in legitimizing its mandate, achieving reconciliation and establishing ties of trust with its people.

Many African countries, including those emerging from conflict, have immense natural resources that could generate significant national revenue, but they cannot always take full advantage of them. Among the main causes for that are the predatory attitudes of many international companies that, in their quest for oil, gold, diamonds and other precious materials, interfere politically and militarily in the region for their own benefit, take advantage of the fragility of countries in or emerging from conflict, and illegally exploit their natural resources. African countries have the right to manage their national resources to the benefit of their own people, and their sovereign use of those resources is key to ensuring that Africa can achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1).

If we are to curb the illegal exploitation of natural resources and regularly and effectively manage those resources, States emerging from conflicts must create the capacity and expertise to negotiate fair contracts and understand the accounting practices of national and international concerns with which they interact, on the understanding that those natural resources belong to the State and are for the enjoyment of the whole population and not just a few.

Moreover, many countries in such circumstances have trouble monitoring and controlling illicit financial flows and tax evasion by these international mining concerns. This challenge extends beyond one, two or three States; it is a problem that requires a legal international framework to counter those trends and reform banking secrecy laws and international corporate tax regimes. Efforts to build peace in Africa and the rest of the world — particularly those to help States emerging from conflict to generate their own national resources — cannot overlook those injustices or fail to address them.

In conclusion, we believe that the main functions of the Peacebuilding Commission and Peacebuilding Fund must include building national capacities to combat the exploitative practices of international extractive corporations, while promoting an international financial system that is more fair and transparent. Only through social justice will we have sustainable peace in Africa.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation): We welcome the initiative of the Japanese delegation to hold this important meeting, and we thank you, Sir, in particular for having invited such important speakers who have made such substantive briefings. We believe that the positions of African representatives are very important in discussions on peacebuilding within the United Nations.

We have learned from experience that any peacebuilding document drafted in New York will remain a mere piece of paper if it is not based on the specific situation in a country, an understanding of the root causes of a conflict, experience from the region itself and a realistic assessment of how goals can be achieved. In considering topics of concern to Africa in the Security Council and other United Nations agencies, the Russian delegation firmly believes in the principle that Africa requires African solutions. We therefore pay special attention to the views of the African Union and the subregional organizations of the continent, favouring the establishment of effective cooperation between them and the United Nations. However, much remains to be done. We believe that the potential for peacebuilding cooperation between the United Nations, the African Union and subregional organizations has not been fully tapped.

In April, the Security Council and General Assembly adopted identical resolutions concluding the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. These documents are comprehensive and distil specific guidelines for international cooperation in that area. Today, when conflicts are often domestic in character, we welcome the understanding that the concept of sustaining peace is based on addressing the root causes of conflict, national reconciliation and ultimately recovery and reconstruction. Another critical element is ensuring that the country has a vision for its future development. It is clear that sustainable results in a peaceful settlement can be achieved only if it enjoys the broad support of the people.

United Nations Member States unanimously agree that peacebuilding processes must be based on national ownership. That is our view. Taking into account the needs of their society, Governments determine their corresponding peacebuilding priorities, and all domestic stakeholders recognize their shared responsibility for peace. The United Nations and international partners are called upon, when necessary and with the consent of the host party, to provide assistance focused first and foremost on the building the capacity of States themselves to overcome conflict and its aftermath.

Unfortunately, achieving sustainable peace in a post-conflict State is much more complex than writing and adopting resolutions. Despite some success stories in United Nations peacebuilding, there have also been examples of significant failures. For instance, some of the consistent shortcomings that led to the deterioration of the situations in the Central African Republic and South Sudan include the lack of due attention to meeting peacebuilding challenges that had a direct link to the root causes of the conflict, the maintenance of stability and security and the promotion of national reconciliation. It may be that priorities for these countries were not sufficiently clear or justified, while national resources were not properly used and other United Nations players saw their remit encroached upon.

Furthermore, with regard to South Sudan, we saw what was essentially an accountancy-based approach to peacebuilding. International partners did not scrimp on providing multibillion dollar assistance to the country, but they did not stop to think whether that was being spent effectively, including in terms of the peacebuilding and State-building challenges facing the country. There was a lack of due attention paid to the reasons for the political and war-related instability in South Sudan, which is rooted in the decades-long bitter civil war. The signs of an impending armed conflict appeared several months before December 2013. We are not going start judging the reasons for the absence of a response to those signs on the part of international partners — whether there were systematic blunders in analysing and predicting the military-political situation, or a distortion and suppression of facts based on political and propagandistic considerations. The appalling results are clear. Currently, South Sudan is not ready for peacebuilding — the fire, which is having a significant impact on countries and the region, needs to be extinguished.

Another example is Burundi. The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) country-specific configuration on that country has been working for almost 10 years. It has set up a number of significant peacebuilding projects. The PBC has organized such important activities as the December 2014 round table in Bujumbura with the participation of Government representatives and international partners. The Burundians themselves gave the PBC's work its best rating while the Permanent Representative of Switzerland was the Chair. They invited him to Bujumbura on numerous occasions at the highest level. At the same time, the behaviour of a number of members of the configuration has been worrisome. Instead of discussing the institutional development issues facing the country, they were calling for a reduction in programme assistance. We were astonished during discussions in the Security Council on possible assistance to Burundi, including to the police sector, when some countries categorically rejected the idea of providing assistance to local law-enforcement agencies for improving police skills.

We think that such approaches are wrong. United Nations mechanisms should not be used to exert political pressure on the Government. The proposals of the international community should be based on a well-thought-out and realistic plan and should enjoy the full support of the host country. Otherwise, existing problems are just going to be exacerbated. This point needs to be fully applied with regard to the draft resolution on Burundi now being discussed in the Security Council. The ideas in that document on Burundi need to be clarified. We cannot just move words around.

The Peacebuilding Commission has been playing a most important coordinating and advisory role in peacebuilding in the United Nations. We trust that, based on the review of its activities, the Commission's effectiveness will improve, and that the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council will seek its advice more often. We think that improving the knowledge of the Commission itself about the situation on the ground is important, especially during periods when there is a change in the form of United Nations assistance — for example, on the eve of the withdrawal of a peacekeeping operation. We would urge the Commission to cooperate with the United Nations peacebuilding offices and other field presences. We consider the recent PBC visit to West Africa — Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone — to have been a useful step.

When we are talking about peacebuilding, it is difficult not to mention the importance of the predictability and sustainability of financing for such projects. Of course, the use of funds must be transparent and accountable. We trust that the Secretary-General will present well-planned and realistic options for Member States to consider. One of them is improving the Fund's peacebuilding toolkit and also improving its attractiveness for potential donors.

Mr. Yelchenko (Ukraine): At the outset, I would like to express our appreciation to you, Sir, for convening this important meeting. We consider today's deliberations and presidential statement S/PRST/2016/12 to be an important step towards the practical implementation of resolution 2282 (2016), on post-conflict peacebuilding, first of all in the African continent.

While Ukraine aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the observer of the European Union, I would like to highlight several points in my national capacity.

First, with regard to conflict prevention, it is clear from resolution 2282 (2016) that the focus of the peacebuilding architecture has to shift to conflict prevention in order to avert an escalation of inter-State or internal tensions into violent conflict and to prevent imminent relapses into conflict. The Council should be more proactive in considering emerging conflicts and fragile situations. In that regard, let me again underscore the important role that the Secretary-General should play in providing input into Council deliberations on such issues. At the same time, visiting missions of the Council are a very useful tool that should be actively used with respect to all situations under the Council's consideration. In our opinion, the idea of inviting representatives of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) country-specific configurations to participate in Council field mission visits also deserves thorough consideration. While a number of recent visiting missions of the Council to African countries went smoothly and efficiently, we must mention that it took six months for the Council to agree on the terms of its field visit to Burundi. That only underscores that that mechanism, which is deemed to be an instrument that can help the Council better understand and assess situations on the ground, is sometimes affected by political horse-trading in the Council, and therefore needs serious improvement.

Secondly, with regard to the importance of the transition period from peacekeeping operations to other forms of United Nations presence, we witnessed the successful story of the steady restoration of peace in Côte d'Ivoire. My country is proud to have been among those that actively contributed to that endeavour by supporting the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire. Last April, the Council renewed its mandate with eventual withdrawal set for mid-2017. However, we have to follow up on the situation there closely and implement a successful exit strategy so as to strengthen positive trends aimed at restoring stability and sustaining peace in Côte d'Ivoire. The same approach should be applied to Liberia, where State authorities are already making the transition towards assuming full responsibility for the country's security, taking over from the United Nations Mission in Liberia. We are heartened by the fact that earlier this year the Council fully lifted sanctions against those two countries. We believe that during the transition period it is essential to receive timely advice from the PBC and take into account the primacy of national ownership. In-depth consultations need to be conducted with national authorities, the main political actors and civil society on existing priority needs on the ground.

Thirdly, with regard to the issue of overreliance on the part of the host country on support from the United Nations mission, the constitutional referendum in the Central African Republic, which was held successfully last December, and the general elections — conducted with support of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic — helped to partially stabilize the country. At the same time, despite the positive political developments since the beginning of the year, the recent events in Bangui and in several other parts of the country demonstrate that the security situation remains fragile and a potential for re-escalation exists. We must therefore encourage the authorities in the Central African Republic to redouble their efforts to stabilize the situation in the country. During my recent visit there last May as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013), concerning the Central African Republic, many officials stressed that a successful reform of the national military forces was of high importance. In that regard, I think that the 2127 Committee should make its contribution to that endeavour by considering applications for arms-embargo exemptions so as to meet the needs of security-sector reform in the Central African Republic, thereby supporting the country in developing its armed and security forces.

Last but not least, over the past decade the role of the African Union in promoting peace and sustainable development among African States has expanded. The African Union has demonstrated its ability to take the lead in the effective resolution of conflicts, and its views and policies on that matter are of particular value for the United Nations. The launch of the African Peace and Security Architecture, the establishment of its structures and the deployment of the African Union's peace-support operations, authorized by the Security Council, are a clear testimony to the growing importance of enhancing United Nations-African Union cooperation. Ukraine, as a Council member and with observer State status in the African Union, stands ready to actively contribute to that endeavour.

Mr. Rycroft (United Kingdom): I thank you, Sir, for convening this debate. I join others in thanking the Secretary-General, Ms. Amina Chawahir Mohamed and Mr. Smail Chergui for their briefings, and all the ministers for their presence.

As we have just heard, Africa is often associated with the scourge of war. In countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo millions have lost their lives in the deadliest conflict since the Second World War, while in regions such as the Lake Chad Basin, as he heard just yesterday (see S/PV.7748), millions face famine because of the instability caused by Boko Haram. But this portrayal is incomplete. Many countries in Africa are living and thriving in peace, and others are escaping the conflict cycle, countries such as Sierra Leone, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire. So how can we build on those peacebuilding successes? What can we learn from them, and how can the Council support peacebuilding so that there are more successes to come?

First, all of our support needs to be in partnership with the people and the Governments of African countries. It is not our place to prescribe solutions. We should instead work together to strengthen the ability of each country to identify its own threats and help it respond to them before conflict happens. This means building on existing practices such as the African Union's Continental Early Warning System and the Panel of the Wise. Our efforts need to focus on building the capacity of a country's institutions, just as the Secretary-General said this morning, so that they can secure predictable and sustainable finances. This in turn will allow them to develop African-led prevention and mediation processes supporting African ownership.

Secondly, it is vital that we get better at planning United Nations interventions that reflect the full conflict cycle, including considering from the outset how United Nations missions will complement the work of existing United Nations staff in the country. Crucially, it means planning how missions will transition when their objectives have been achieved. So I strongly support the work of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General's strategic planning and analysis cell. Rigorous analysis and planning is vital to the effectiveness of the United Nations, and the cell must be empowered to lead cross-United Nations analysis of emerging conflict.

At the heart of all of this analysis needs to be the recognition that countries are different and have different drivers of conflict. Our planning needs to be based on real understanding. Mandates should be country-specific, and then from better planning the flows the better use of phased mandates. These can help ensure that mandated activities and resources are the most appropriate to the political and security conditions.

In some cases, we need to recognize that United Nations peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations may not be best placed to deliver institution-building, which requires long-term and specialist engagement. Where appropriate, we need to draw on support from a United Nations country team and from others.

Thirdly, sustainable peace needs inclusive participation and good governance. Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 16, will be crucial. Well-governed and inclusive societies with effective and accountable institutions form the foundations for stability and for economic growth. So by promoting transparency and accountability, tackling corruption and ensuring that finances are used effectively, we can help tackle some of the key underlying causes of fragility and drivers of conflict.

To build a sustainable peace, everyone must be allowed to play their part. Women have a crucial role in conflict resolution and peacebuilding as well as in building institutional capacity and resilience. Women's participation needs more support.

Working with non-State actors and informal institutions can be important entry points. It should not just be for the elite. Getting the right support down to grass-roots organizations and civil society will also help create positive changes in the lives of women and girls, and it means women being able to participate without fear of reprisal or backlash in politics at all levels, formal and informal.

We can also do more to engage young people. Africa has more people aged under 20 than anywhere else in the world. Capturing all of this potential and channelling this energy into positive change is vital to peace, stability and prosperity. So we all need to respond this opportunity by supporting the needs of children and young people through education, training and deployment.

Finally, as I stated before, tackling potential risks to stability early is the most effective approach to creating a sustainable peace. Doing so prevents enormous human suffering, fear and displacement, and it makes economic sense. But to be effective, early warning requires early action. This takes political will from individual countries, the Council, the Peacebuilding Commission and key regional actors. I hope that we will all show some such will in the coming weeks and months.

Mr. Rosselli (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): I wish to thank the delegation of Japan for having convened this open debate and also for the concept note (S/2016/586, annex). I wish also to thank the Secretary-General, Ambassador Amina Mohamed and Ambassador Smail Chergui for their respective statements today.

Uruguay deems it important to maintain the momentum created by the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture that were adopted simultaneously by the Security Council and the General Assembly — resolution 2282 (2016) and General Assembly resolution 70/262, respectively — on 27 April last, so as to continue to be constructive in our approach to peacebuilding architecture throughout the United Nations system.

The intra-State nature of current conflict reflect a new reality that increases pressure on national Governments, which must face a number of challenges with limited resources and capacities. This open debate has been focused on a particularly interesting and relevant issue, institution-building, which is one of the priority areas for peacebuilding.

In the absence of a State system equipped with strong and reliable institutions, peace can eventually be reached but cannot be strengthened or sustained. There are countries in which conflicts run so very deep that there is not even a unity Government with which the population identifies, and, as such, institution-building would seem an alien concept.

In order to build peace, measures must be taken to promote socioeconomic growth, promote and protect human rights and strengthen institutions, so as to build confidence between national Governments and their people. Uruguay attaches particular importance to the solidity of institutions as a factor in the stability of all societies. As the concept note rightly states, democracy, national security and law and order, local governance, the public administration management system, the economic and financial structure, the basic social-service system and the system for dialogue and reconciliation all must be stable, transparent and reliable in order to ensure their effectiveness and so that the entire population can reap the benefits of peace equally.

Women, young people and children are of particular importance, and the necessary measures need to be taken to ensure their participation. In that regard, we reiterate the need to ensure the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security, highlighting the importance of strengthening social inclusion as a means of ensuring that all segments of society are taken into account.

There are no single models to achieve sustainable development, and that is why Uruguay believes that the design of strategies in that respect must focus on the particular characteristics of a given society. That is why we must promote greater participation and coordination among regional and subregional organizations, which can play a crucial role in institution-building. They are the ones who best understand the realities and needs of their member countries.

The new African Peace and Security Architecture Road Map for 2016-2020 is an excellent tool. It lays out the role of all actors involved and sets out specific indicators and goals in priority areas. Uruguay further underscores the successful peacebuilding efforts of the African Union, particularly as regards post-conflict policies, reconstruction and development.

Uruguay believes that we must recognize the role played by United Nations peacekeeping operations in peacebuilding, particularly in consolidating peace at the national level. On the other hand, it is worth noting that, when a peacekeeping operation or when a special political mission withdraws from the field, there exists a shared responsibility between the host State and the United Nations for peacebuilding. That shared responsibility should always be borne in the first instance by the host State, which must also lead the peacebuilding process in its territory.

The United Nations acts as a complement to the State authorities by supporting peacebuilding efforts. But peacebuilding operations were not established to be able to be resorted to in all situations in which the countries concerned do not assume their responsibilities as sovereign entities. For that reason, it very important that the transition process to peacebuilding be led by the leaders of the States concerned, and that they utilize all the tools they have for institutional capacity-building.

Uruguay believes that it is by addressing the structural and root causes of conflict that peace can be achieved, and there can also be a successful effort to prevent the recurrence of conflict in the region.

Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): Why have we not been able to collectively ensure a future of peace for Africa? Well, the truth is that there is no simple reply. That is why I am particularly grateful to the Japanese presidency of the Security Council for having organized this debate. I also thank our invitees for their briefings, which have given us a clearer picture of the reality.

A decade after the United Nations and the African Union developed instruments for peacebuilding, such as the Peacebuilding Commission, we still have not broken the vicious circle of conflict. The situations in Burundi and in South Sudan are sad examples of that fact. We have not been able to help the people of Burundi to build lasting, sustainable peace; nor have we managed to unify ourselves in the Security Council so as to convey to its Government the need to define a solution to the crisis. The horrors of the 1990s come to mind.

South Sudan is another case where the inability of the country's leaders is largely to blame for the situation. I recall that just a few years ago at the United Nations we celebrated with joy the independence of South Sudan. Today we are looking at a very different South Sudan.

Fortunately, there are more positive examples than negative examples — Burkina Faso, where the instruments of the rule of law have triumphed, and Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, where the crisis caused by Ebola was overcome, or even Somalia, which was a perfect example of a failed State and today sees light at the end of the tunnel. I shall therefore focus on the positive examples in order to try to draw three clear and enlightening lessons from the situation and strengthen our efforts to achieve sustainable peace in the African continent.

First, if we take a comprehensive approach, we can see that peacebuilding is a cycle. It is not just one event. It is a cycle, a process that begins with one fundamental word, "prevention". I will give an example: Guinea-Bissau, where the preventive efforts of the United Nations, including those of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Security Council, the Economic Community of West African States and the African Union, might already be bearing fruit. Or consider Somalia, as I mentioned earlier, where the excellent cooperation among the various institutions is making it possible for us to be truly optimistic.

The second lesson has to do with flexibility. I think that it has become stereotypical, a platitude, to say, as we often do, that there is no single recipe for the mandates of peacekeeping operations and special political missions. However, one interesting possibility that I might suggest to the Security Council is that we consider establishing an automatic transition mechanism that would make it possible to take advantage of the potential of the Peacebuilding Commission in order to fill, on an immediate basis, the vacuum left by the withdrawal of a peacekeeping mission. That would help in situations such as that in the Central African Republic, which is beginning to transition from the urgent situation of peacekeeping to the sustained efforts necessary for peacebuilding. It is essential to avoid situations in which countries that are no longer on the agenda of the Security Council find themselves left alone to face their problems.

The third major lesson is the ability to establish priorities. Who should establish priorities? Obviously, first and foremost, the national authorities, but the national authorities also have a duty to protect their own citizens. It is the African leaders who will shoulder that difficult task. We in the international community must support them in strengthening their own institutions. Experience has shown us that the most successful examples of post-conflict reconstruction are those where it has been possible to sequence institutional reform in an intelligent way, starting with security reforms and moving on to justice-sector reforms and then to reconciliation mechanisms. Experience also tells us that the cycle of conflict can be overcome only if — and I think that this is the most important thing I am going to say — we manage to involve the participation of the entire population of a country. What does the participation of the entire population mean? It is simply to give an active and prominent role to women.

Mr. Moustafa (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to begin by expressing the gratitude of the delegation of Egypt to the presidency for organizing this important debate on peacebuilding in Africa, which is indeed a very relevant topic and one that goes to the heart of the mandate of the Security Council and peacekeeping. We also welcome presidential statement S/PRST/2016/12, which you, Sir, prepared. We would also like to say how much we appreciate some of the ideas expressed here during the debate.

Over the past few years, we have witnessed an unprecedented increase in United Nations efforts in the area of peacebuilding. Those efforts have been crowned with the adoption of resolution 2282 (2016) parallel to General Assembly resolution 70/262, and those resolutions set out a global approach that takes into account activities and factors that are essential for peacebuilding. We hope that such an approach will provide the necessary political dynamic needed to consolidate peacebuilding in Africa. The emerging and new challenges that Africa is facing, including the expansion of terrorist groups, organized crime, environmental challenges, as well as other non-traditional challenges, all demand that we adopt an innovative approach in order to tackle them. The nature of those challenges has led us to join together in resolving conflicts via peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding efforts in order to achieve sustainable development, all against a backdrop of an ongoing, sustainable process. We must therefore rid ourselves of the notion of conflict management, and instead focus on an approach for resolving conflicts by tackling their root causes.

We cannot talk about peacebuilding in Africa without mentioning the key role of comprehensive and inclusive national reconciliation and of security sector reform in both its military and police components. Moreover, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration efforts will be in vain unless the economic and social needs of the people are addressed in order to ensure the process is successful. We also need to ensure social justice and that the judicial system is independent and impartial and the rule of law prevails. We must also strengthen the relevant institutions in all of the corresponding areas, which are the main peacebuilding priorities in Africa.

We cannot disregard the links between peacebuilding in Africa and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1), nor the link between peacebuilding in Africa and the African Union's Agenda 2063, which is an expression of Africa's determination and reflects the specific priorities and needs of Africa.

One also cannot talk about good governance, the rule of law, democratic principles or justice in societies suffering from hunger, disease and poverty — societies that are deprived of the foundations of a dignified life according to internationally recognized standards. Therefore, it is essential to lay the political, economic and social groundwork so that the process of sustainable development is built on a sound foundation. In that context, Egypt, through the Egyptian agency of cooperation for development, has trained more than 700 experts from countries that are on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission in the security, medical, judicial and agricultural sectors. This initiative is part of a process aimed at strengthening the human resource capacity in those countries.

I would like to reiterate several basic points.

First, we need to adhere to the principle of ownership in efforts aimed at building peace in Africa. National authorities need to determine their priorities and the way to implement them. The same idea also applies to strengthening institutions.

Secondly, it is important to increase the effectiveness of the Peacebuilding Commission so that it can play its role as a coordinating body of national, regional and international efforts and advise the Security Council, so that it in turn can develop mandates that are conducive to peacebuilding, especially sustainable peace.

Thirdly, it is essential to provide sustainable, predictable, and timely financing for peacebuilding efforts in Africa. We must also work towards maximizing the coordination of international financial institutions and bolstering the investment capacities of the Peacebuilding Fund in order to strengthen its human and institutional capacities.

Fourthly, promoting the participation of women and young people in Africa is also crucial, especially in the planning and implementation stage of peacebuilding activities throughout the continent.

Fifthly, we must implement African post-conflict reconstruction and development policies and promote the African solidarity initiative in the framework of efforts to strengthen the African Peace and Security Architecture. Egypt has previously proposed setting up a specialized centre for reconstruction and development in Africa as a necessary step. The centre could bolster all peacebuilding efforts and institutions in Africa. We welcome Mr. Chergui's proposal of to hold annual meetings with a view to sharing experiences and lessons learned, which could be part of a true strategic partnership between the two organizations.

To truly sustain peace, we will need significant resources and we will need to take advantage of lessons learned and the experiences we have built up. We will need to put an end to the dividing up and duplication of work, which undermines the effectiveness of United Nations efforts towards sustainable peacebuilding in Africa.

The President: I wish to remind speakers to limit their statements to no more than four minutes in order to enable the Council to carry out its work expeditiously. Delegations with lengthy statements are kindly requested to circulate their texts in writing and to deliver a condensed version when speaking in the Chamber. I would also like to appeal to speakers to deliver their statements at a reasonable speed so that interpretation may be provided accurately.

I also wish to inform all concerned that we will be carrying on this open debate right through the lunch hour, as we have a large number of speakers.

I now give the floor to the representative of Mexico.

Mrs. Arrieta Munguia (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): Mexico welcomes the holding of this open debate, which will encourage the breaking of silos and call into question inertia in facing the enormous task of sustaining peace. This is a systemic challenge that requires us to put an end to the fragmentation within the Organization and to participate in an active, coherent and coordinated manner. In that regard, we welcome the participation of the Secretary-General and Minister Kishida, as well as the briefings made by the representatives of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and the African Union.

Now more than ever, it is necessary for us to establish an effective dialogue between the Security Council and the key actors of the Organization. It is worth drawing attention here to the role played by Japan during its non-permanent memberships of the Security Council and as Chair of the PBC Working Group on Lessons Learned in promoting this dialogue. In particular, we welcome the comprehensive changes that will be brought about by the implementation of General Assembly resolution 70/262 and resolution 2282 (2016), which together set out a road map for sustainable peace.

We are talking about a new narrative that focuses our efforts on conflict prevention and on a proactive, strategic and long-term approach, without neglecting the fact that each stage of a conflict is crucial and that its root causes must be addressed. Those root causes are closely linked to the three pillars of the work of the United Nations, given that we cannot think about peace and security without also thinking about development and human rights. We are convinced that strengthening the rule of law and accountable and transparent institutions is as important as promoting sustainable and inclusive development. Against that backdrop, the new concept of sustainable peace is based on Goal 16 but goes beyond it, creating a perfect synergy with the 2030 Agenda. This paradigm shift also draws attention to the need to place people at the centre of our efforts. It is a call to invest in communities and preserve a healthy social fabric in order to create more opportunities for development and for political and social stability.

Over the past several years, we have learned a number of lessons. The international community has confirmed that the stability of conflict-affected ctries does not depend solely on improving security, but that it also depends on respecting human rights, strengthening the rule of law and promoting development. Mexico recognizes that some of the challenges facing Africa in supporting peace processes are related to democratic transition and building democracy. That is why, since 2009, we have been providing technical assistance and training in election matters to African countries that have requested them. Mexico expresses its willingness to continue providing electoral assistance and cooperation to those countries in need of them. Nevertheless, the recent resurgence of conflict in Africa attests to the need to go beyond electoral processes and to promote the inclusive and active participation of all segments of society — in particular, that of women and young people — in peace processes.

Moreover, sustainable peace requires us to unite our efforts both within and outside the system, hence the great added value of establishing strategic alliances with regional and subregional organizations, such as the African Union. Mexico reiterates that the Peacebuilding Commission's advisory role and its long-term perspective need to be taken advantage of on a periodic basis by regional and subregional organizations in Africa, particularly in the context of African countries that are on the Commision's agenda. Doing so would improve coordination and also help to develop and share best practices in peacebuilding.

We would also like to call on the Security Council to promote and to regularly take advantage of the specific and strategic, defined advisory role of the PBc in the periodic review carried out by the Security Council of the situations on its agenda and of those situations related to the establishment, review and drawdown of peacekeeping operations. Our main message here is that we need to find more creative solutions in all the processes related to the peacebuilding architecture. To that end, Member States would have to commit to going beyond the traditional and obvious ways in which we have been supporting conflict-affected countries. As an example, and under the modality of South-South cooperation, Mexico and Cuba, through the World Health Organization, provided assistance to countries affected by the Ebola epidemic. Mexico provided resources for the team and supplies for the Cuban medical brigades that were deployed to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, the countries most affected by the health emergency. The results were very positive. Such best practices in cooperation could be replicated in other areas, including in the Peacebuilding Fund.

Mexico will continue to play an active and constructive role as the leader of the Group of Friends of Sustainable Peace. That is why I am very pleased to mention that some 30 countries took part in the Group's first meeting, out of a conviction that sustainable peace must be transformed into a living objective that has a strong cross-cutting presence throughout the entire United Nations system. This includes a change in our approach to the way we work to achieve a peace that can sustain itself and that is sustainable for all.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Brazil.

Mr. Sobral Duarte (Brazil): Nelson Mandela, whose International Day was recently celebrated, once said that he dreamed of an Africa that was at peace with itself. Until his dream comes true, let us look at Africa not as a continent made up only of challenges, but as one made up also of great wisdom, creativity and a promising future. In this spirit, allow me to refer to some of the progress recently witnessed on the African continent in the area of peace and security.

The African Union in particular has developed a significant pattern of cooperation with the United Nations. The Economic Community of West African States is playing a decisive and constructive role in countries such as Guinea-Bissau. Other subregional organizations are also playing their part in promoting peace and enhancing institutions.

It is worth noting that three important peacekeeping operations in Africa are now led by women — the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara. In West Africa, significant progress has been achieved in the transitions in Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire. The sanctions regimes imposed on them have been discontinued. In Côte d'Ivoire, UNOCI was extended for one last time. In Liberia, the Government fully assumed its national security responsibilities last month.

West Africa recently emerged from the Ebola outbreak. Despite the tragic loss of 11,000 lives, the coordinated action of the United Nations and the essential early-warning role played by the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) contributed to the prevention of even more casualties. This underlines the relevance of the PBC's activities in sustaining peace on the continent. The Commission has developed considerable expertise in assisting countries while taking into account a longer-term perspective. Its diversified membership allows for inclusive discussions that reflect a wide range of views.

As the recurrence of conflicts in some countries sadly demonstrates, sustaining peace is one of the most challenging issues faced by the international community. Brazil has long advocated for the importance of promoting development policies in order to foster stability in conflict and post-conflict situations. The interdependence between security, development and human rights is central to the idea of peacebuilding.

While acknowledging progress, it is important to bear in mind some of the difficulties that Africa still faces. The report of the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa estimated that the continent lost $1 trillion over the past five decades due to illegal financial flows. In the same vein, a more recent report from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development concluded that billions of dollars are lost by developing countries each year due to misinvoicing in the trading of commodities. This is not only an African issue, but one that concerns the entire international community.

It is not possible to resolve conflicts in Africa without taking into account the crucial question of the illegal exploitation of natural resources. Peacebuilding efforts need to address this issue in order to favour sustained peace. The Great Lakes region, for instance, shows that violence can be fuelled, inter alia, by an abundance of natural resources, not a lack thereof.

With regard to Burundi, we acknowledge the need of prompt measures to avoid further violence. However, we believe that the Council should prioritize the promotion of reconciliation through inclusive dialogue and national ownership. The fragile humanitarian situation in the region continues to be aggravated by the influx of 270,000 refugees from Burundi into neighbouring countries. These refugees' status and rights should be fully recognized and respected. The PBC configuration should be invited to express itself.

Particularly deplorable is the current crisis in South Sudan. The United Nations should remain committed to working with all South Sudanese, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the African Union and other regional partners.

The Sahel continues to face the consequences of an ill-fated intervention in Libya, which contributed to an increase in the illegal trafficking of weapons and to the spread of the activities of terrorist groups in the region, as the situation in Mali exemplifies. Similarly, violent extremism that leads to terrorism has been plaguing the Lake Chad Basin, where Boko Haram continues to submit the civilian population to heightened fear and pain. This should be taken as a powerful warning against resorting to military force as the first measure to solve conflicts.

It is disheartening to acknowledge that many of these situations could have been less traumatic or could have been circumvented had different approaches been attempted. In this sense, the recent reviews on peacekeeping operations, on the peacebuilding architecture and on women and peace and security represent a step in the right direction. They converge on the emphasis on prevention and on political solutions to conflicts through dialogue and diplomacy in Africa and elsewhere.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Italy.

Mr. Lambertini (Italy): I thank you, Mr. President, for convening today's important open debate which, in our view, is extremely timely, as it follows the recent decision by the African Union Summit in Kigali to operationalize the African Union Peace Fund and the successful Italy-Africa Ministerial Conference held in May in Rome, which launched a new pattern of dialogue and cooperation with the African continent. Italy aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the representative of the European Union and wishes to add the following remarks in its national capacity.

As a member of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), Italy fully supports the new concept of sustaining peace and the need to invest in the Commission's work to ensure sustainable funding. This year, we restarted financing the Peacebuilding Fund and have committed to increasing our development aid. In the year of sustainability, the new concept of sustaining peace is key to long-term, stable and durable peace, particularly in Africa, a continent still hosting the vast majority of United Nations peacekeepers and at the centre of United Nations peacebuilding efforts.

For these reasons, in Rome we proposed a Sustainability Compact between Italy and Africa, in which the sustainability of peace and security is the leading concept, with a view to avoiding conflicts and relapse into conflicts and to achieving the goal of a conflict-free Africa. Secondly, the Compact supports socioeconomic sustainability, with a view to taking advantage of the immense opportunities the continent provides. Thirdly, the Compact upholds sustainability in managing migration, building upon the Migration Compact that Italy proposed to the European Union to promote a strategic approach to the issue, working together with African and European partners.

As an incoming Security Council member, we will take full advantage of the recommendations contained in the concept note (S/2016/566, annex) and in the presidential statement just adopted (S/PRST/2016/12), working closely on these issues with the Netherlands in light of the agreement to split the 2017-2018 mandate to ensure continuity of action. Allow me now to focus on few points.

First of all, we underline the importance of ownership, which is a pillar of peacebuilding activities in Africa and elsewhere. It is achieved by actively involving all relevant national stakeholders in a responsible and inclusive way.

Secondly, we would stress partnerships and on the United Nations acting as an enabler of peace in order to facilitate the necessary political, economic and financial support for the implementation of peacebuilding strategies. In this context, the role of the African Union and of subregional organizations is crucial. I would also refer to the PBC country configurations and the visit by the Chairs to the relevant countries as a concrete example of working in partnerships towards common goals.

Thirdly, we would highlight supporting a culture of prevention and strengthening the capacity of local actors to play a leading role in mediation. Italy has consistently supported the African Union as it strengthens its capacities in this respect. The inclusion of women, young persons and moderate religious leaders is essential to building solid ground for long-standing reconciliation and a common vision for the future.

Fourthly, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1) needs to be implemented and fine-tuned so that it works harmoniously with the African Agenda 2063. The two Agendas are to be considered as integrated agendas to better secure economic, social and environmental development against potential relapses into conflict. Implementing the 2030 Agenda is the best tool at our disposal to address the root causes of conflicts and instability by taking full advantage of the link the Agenda creates between development and peace, human rights — in particular, gender equality — governance and accountability. In the light of the integrated approach proposed by the 2030 Agenda, a reflection is needed on strengthening the nexus between sustaining peace and development via Sustainable Development Goal 16, which promotes peaceful and stable societies.

Finally, I would emphasize the importance of capacity- and institution-building, which are key to sustaining peace. Stable and functioning institutions are the best way to avoid relapse into conflict as, inter alia, they provide services that citizens need and they create the proper environment for business opportunities. In this context, I wish to recall the training offered by the Italian Custom Police to customs and border control officers of several African countries to strengthen their capacity in such a crucial sector.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Pakistan.

Mr. Munir (Pakistan): I thank you, Mr. President, for organizing today's open debate on peacebuilding in Africa. We offer special thanks to Foreign Minister Kishida, Secretary-General Ban, the briefers and other Ministers for their statements. It is a great pleasure to Ambassador Kishida here at the Security Council today.

The countries currently on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) are all in Africa. Indeed, the PBC's primary focus remains on Africa. Despite examples of positive change through peacebuilding activities in countries such as Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire, Africa continues to face formidable challenges. The PBC's work in marshalling resources, advising on integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery, focusing attention on reconstruction and institution-building, laying the foundation for sustainable development, helping develop best practices and ensuring predictable financing has made a real difference on ground. And Africa has benefitted from it.

Violence in Africa has destabilized Governments, destroyed livelihoods, undermined national economies, damaged infrastructure, led to the exodus of people and disrupted the delivery of education and health services. One of the key messages of the report of the Advisory Group of Experts (S/2015/490) was that peacebuilding must include a strong emphasis on conflict prevention with broad and inclusive partnerships. The Group's report and the Security Council and General Assembly resolutions last spring (resolution 70/262 and resolution 2282 (2016), respectively) identified challenges to and instruments for effective post-conflict peacebuilding. They referred to the need for collective efforts by political, security and development actors in favour of sustainable peace. Failure to prioritize could lead to tragic cycles of relapse. Similarly, addressing root causes of conflict remains critical to avoiding recurrence. Let me elucidate some of our thoughts on best practices.

First, post-conflict needs in Africa are varied, ranging from institution-building and economic reconstruction to judicial and security sector reform. Peacebuilding interventions need to be tailored to specific situations.

Secondly, success stories in the continent have one common thread — inclusive national ownership. We need to keep this in view while devising future programmes.

Thirdly, the quick refocus of the PBC during the early stages of the Ebola crisis showed that it is agile and adaptable, and that it does achieve results. Emerging crises should continue to get the needed attention.

Fourthly, when we talk about peacebuilding as a continuum, its activities surely cannot be limited to one phase alone. Creating conditions that provide for security and economic welfare is as important as conflict prevention and resolution itself. Institutional capacity-building, training and skills development should be directed at supporting local stakeholders and engaging external actors in peacebuilding structures and activities.

Fifthly, regional organizations have an immediate interest in promoting peace. Enhancing the capacity of the regional and subregional organizations for conflict resolution, maintaining regional peace and security and fostering political and socioeconomic development remains vital.

Africa's unparalleled and untapped potential for growth and development, its positive recent history — according to one study, more wars have ended than have started in Africa since the early 1980s — and peaceful transitions in many countries are all encouraging signs. Prosperity and peace in Africa can be achieved only when the local, national, regional and international dimensions of crises are addressed. Pakistan has supported Africa through its peacekeeping contributions, capacity-building and normative and monetary contributions in the area of peacebuilding. We remain committed to peace, security and development in Africa.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Thailand.

Mr. Plasai (Thailand): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the States members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN): Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Viet Nam and my country, Thailand. I wish to express ASEAN's appreciation to the Japanese presidency for convening today's open debate and to all the briefers for their respective remarks. ASEAN also welcomes the Security Council's adoption of presidential statement S/PRST/2016/12 on this issue.

The review of the peacebuilding architecture called for a move away from the post-conflict peacebuilding mindset, and urged us to view peacebuilding more holistically as part of the peace continuum that spans from conflict prevention and resolution to laying down the foundations of sustainable peace. This is in line with ASEAN's comprehensive approach to peace and security. If peace is to take root and grow strong, a country must have the means and mechanisms to sustain and build upon the efforts invested by the international community. In this regard, the presidency's concept note (S/2016/586, annex) rightly stresses the importance of institution- and capacity-building in order to build a peaceful and resilient society.

Today's focus on Africa is of particular relevance for the Security Council. While some African countries that used to be on the Council's agenda have attained peace and stability, a fair number are still grappling with conflicts and holding on to a fragile peace. As our contribution, we wish to underline the following considerations.

The first concerns national ownership. One of the underlying causes of conflict and instability is exclusion from political and decision-making processes. Inclusive national ownership is therefore a prerequisite for successful peacebuilding. This must begin with genuine dialogue among all stakeholders, including women and young people. This process is necessary to instil a sense of ownership in State institutions, as well as to restoring legitimacy and trust in them.

The second concerns partnership. ASEAN supports a greater role for Africa in addressing African problems. There is vast experience and knowledge in the field of peacebuilding within the region. In particular, we echo the recognition by the Council and the General

Assembly in their respective resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture of the prominent role of the African Union in this regard. It is commendable that peacebuilding is one of the key priorities in the African Peace and Security Architecture Roadmap 2016-2020. We also encourage enhanced exchanges of view and dialogue between the African Union and the Security Council, as well as other United Nations bodies involved in peacebuilding, in order to achieve synergy and ensure complementarity. In addition, the experience within our region has shown that partnership with civil society can contribute to addressing peacebuilding challenges, especially in the field of development. We believe that enhanced partnership with African civil society can produce the same positive impact.

Finally, I turn to sustained support. We wish to touch on two particular aspects. Peacebuilding requires adequate and predictable funding, yet the Peacebuilding Fund, which has supported numerous catalytic projects around the world, continues to face financial shortfalls. Access to assessed contributions for the Fund should be considered. We must also look for alternative means to fund peacebuilding activities in Africa. Partnership with the private sector, international financial institutions and regional development banks should be seriously explored. On our part, ASEAN countries have provided technical cooperation to countries in Africa through various development cooperation programmes. We encourage deepening and enhancing South-South cooperation in the field of peacebuilding.

The valuable contribution of ASEAN countries to peacekeeping operations and special political missions to peacebuilding is well-recognized. Over 1,000 personnel from ASEAN countries are deployed in support of United Nations missions in Africa, such as the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, where justice and security institution-building is among the priority tasks. In order to ensure coherence and continuity, as well as preserve peacebuilding gains, careful mission transition planning and post-mission United Nations support should be in place from an early stage. The involvement of United Nations country teams and the United Nations development system is also crucial to that end.

I would like to conclude my remarks by reiterating ASEAN's commitment to peacebuilding in Africa. We cannot wait until the guns fall silent. Peacebuilding work must begin now. ASEAN members stand ready to lend our support and cooperation to the Council and to our friends in Africa in build resilient and prosperous societies.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Switzerland.

Mr. Lauber (Switzerland) (*spoke in French*): I thank the Japanese presidency of the Council for having convened this discussion. In my intervention, I will focus on three aspects that I believe to be particularly important to peacebuilding: national ownership; coherence among international, regional and national actors; and the role of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture.

In its peacebuilding engagement in Africa, Switzerland attaches great importance to the principle of inclusive national ownership by closely cooperating with national and local authorities and communities. However, as much as conflict-affected countries need international assistance, peacebuilding cannot succeed if it is designed or perceived as an external intervention. Without a corresponding commitment from the Government and national key actors, a society cannot build sustainable peace or launch an inclusive dialogue. Mitigating the risk that State institutions may weaken and become less inclusive and representative in a post-conflict environment is a key challenge for peacebuilding. The will and capacities of political decisionmakers to shoulder the responsibility of their office, as well as the existence of accountable and inclusive institutions, are crucial to the success of peacebuilding. In that regard, I underline that there are many peacebuilding success stories in Africa. Let us learn from and build on these examples .

This brings me to my second point. Another reason for the failure of peacebuilding processes is a lack of coordination among international, regional and national actors. All too often, the different peacebuilding efforts turn into unconstructive competitions and contradict each other. The need for more coherence between the United Nations and regional and even subregional actors is highlighted in the recent peacebuilding resolution 2282 (2016). Particularly in Africa, the United Nations can rely on regional and subregional partners with extended networks and a sound knowledge of the continent, its challenges and opportunities. These partnerships must be driven by synergies in terms both of substance and of institutional structures. I am therefore pleased to note that the Peacebuilding

Fund recently signed an innovative agreement with the African Union, covering the financing of African Union observers in Burundi. Let us try to learn from this experience in terms not only of substance, but also of administrative cooperation.

Thirdly, I note the role of the peacebuilding architecture. On numerous occasions, States Members of the United Nations have recognized that development, peace and security, and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. The willingness to act on this acknowledgment will be decisive for success in implementing the new peacebuilding resolution, in particular with regard to prevention. A multitude of measures will be necessary to make progress on the following two tracks.

First, the link between the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission must be strengthened, of course in full respect of their respective mandates. As noted by the Permanent Representative of New Zealand, the Peacebuilding Commission has not yet reached its full potential for supporting the Security Council in long-term, structural and inclusive conflict prevention. We need more regular and substantial exchanges between the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission, including the configuration Chairs. That would allow the Council to embed its measures into more comprehensive long-term peace perspectives in the sense of sustaining peace.

Secondly, we encourage all Member States to pay greater attention to the link between human rights and peace. In that regard, at the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Human Rights Council on 13 June, Switzerland and 63 other Member States launched a public appeal to put human rights at the heart of conflict prevention. This public appeal stresses that human rights must play a more prominent role at every stage of the prevention continuum and that the cooperation between the Security Council and the Human Rights Council should therefore be intensified.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Guatemala.

Mr. Sandoval Cojulún (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): Guatemala thanks Japan for convening this open debate under its presidency, and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Ambassadors Amina Mohamed and Smail Chergui for their briefings. We welcome the timely adoption of presidential statement S/PRST/2016/12.

My delegation endorses the content of the concept note for this open debate (S/2016/586, annex), which indicates that the involvement of various sectors of society — such as women, youth, children and organized civil society — is necessary to consolidate a stable and sustainable peace. In this regard, the report of the Advisory Group of Experts on the review of the peacebuilding architecture refers to the importance of involving different sectors of society in the peace process and of their sense of ownership of the process of dialogue and reconciliation for sustainable peace.

Peacebuilding in Africa has set an example for good practices, but it has also seen instances where the implementation of sustainable peace has not met expectations, including when the situation on the ground has deteriorated, affecting the civil population, Blue Helmets and diplomats. My delegation takes this opportunity to condemn such acts vigorously. Guatemala appreciates the work of all military contingents, staff officers and military observers deployed in Africa, who remain on the ground in order to fulfil their mandates, often in situations of extreme violence that have left dead and wounded. We appreciate the role of peacekeeping missions deployed in Africa in protecting civilians, but it is important to stress that the primary responsibility for the protection of civilians lies with Governments.

When the time came to seek peace in Guatemala, a country that was afflicted by conflict for more than three decades, it was crucial that Guatemalan society play a key role in achieving peace and in the national reconciliation process. It should be clear that the achievement of a firm and lasting peace must be based on participatory socioeconomic development that is oriented to the common good and meets the needs of the entire population. Such development requires social justice as one of the pillars of national unity and solidarity, and sustainable economic growth as a condition for meeting the social demands of the population. The effective participation of citizens from all sectors of society is also critical in the process of open and inclusive dialogue and national reconciliation through truth commissions, which contribute to the restoration of trust and the social fabric. The State must facilitate these opportunities for participation as a guiding force of national development. At the same time, it is imperative to focus efforts, where necessary, on implementing programmes for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of parties to the conflict into society.

As I mentioned early in my statement regarding the importance of organized society's direct participation in seeking a sustainable peace on the ground, it is imperative to facilitate, respect and strengthen the participation of civil society so as to ensure that processes are democratic and strengthen sustainable peace. In cases where conflicts have abated, the national context provides an opportunity to revitalize State institutions so that they can consistently guarantee life, freedom, justice, security, peace and the integral development of the person to all its citizens.

Finally, it is important to recognize that at present the United Nations has at its disposal relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and Security Council, as well up-to-date reports, for the membership to consult and implement at the national level so as to achieve peace on the ground before, during and after conflict. We need to remember that where the Organization has failed most has been in the implementation of its own decisions and in the provision of genuine follow-up. Such has been the case for peacebuilding. It is in the interests of everyone to ensure the effective implementation of Council decisions, as well as to strengthen and build upon the work of the Peacebuilding Commission, the General Assembly and the Council itself.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Germany.

Mr. Krapp (Germany): Germany welcomes the focus of this debate on peacebuilding in Africa. We share our African partners' vision of a peaceful, prosperous and integrated continent, and we have consistently supported African and United Nations mechanisms that work to that end. Germany also believes that peacebuilding must be seen as an endeavour that encompasses the whole lifespan of a conflict, from crisis prevention to post-conflict efforts. We need an approach that is more innovative than one based simply on institution-building.

Drawing lessons from past conflicts, Germany has been one of the main actors in developing and promoting the concept of stabilizing the lives of civilians. Such stabilization is targeted at creating a secure environment and improving the living conditions of people afflicted by internal or inter-State armed conflict. By doing so, it serves the overarching purpose of supporting and sustaining political processes aimed at non-violent conflict resolution. Through concrete measures on the ground, such stabilization contributes to containing, and ultimately ending, violence.

I will give an example. Together with the United Nations Development Programme, we have developed the Stabilization Facility for Libya. The Facility provides for the quick rehabilitation of critical infrastructure, enhances the capacity of municipalities and supports local authorities in their efforts to play a more active role in peacebuilding. It supports the new Government of National Accord's efforts to build its legitimacy in the eyes of the population. Germany provides a major part of the funding for the Facility. However, we have also seen that stabilization measures will fail in the absence of a political will for change. Therefore, measures must be designed in a way as to enable the first steps towards reconciliation between parties to the conflict. Stabilization can help lay the foundations for a social and political consensus and legitimate political structures.

In Mali, for instance, Germany is assisting the Government in implementing the peace agreement, with a particular focus on moving ahead with decentralization. Only when decentralization becomes visible on the ground and the affected population feels real change in their lives can the peace agreement achieve the necessary momentum.

We strongly advocate for generally implementing the concept of civilian stabilization within the framework of United Nations missions. That would require, first, an integrated approach. All instruments at our disposal should be utilized as the situation demands. That would include the tools of diplomacy and mediation, development policy, financial contributions, police assistance and, where necessary, military peace operations.

Secondly, it would require the strengthening of existing tools. The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) is a valuable instrument that can help us to improve the focus of our efforts. The Commission needs to assume a more active role in sustaining peace, in close coordination with the Security Council. In order to achieve that, the rules of procedure of the PBC should be reviewed and streamlined.

Thirdly, all of that requires money. The Peacebuilding Fund is an important catalyst for implementing stabilization projects. Therefore, in 2016, Germany has again contributed to the Peacebuilding Fund. This year, the amount is $11 million.

Germany stands ready to further refine, in consultation with partners, the concept of civilian stabilization as a contribution to sustaining peace.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Belgium.

Ms. Frankinet (Belgium) (*spoke in French*): I thank the Japanese presidency for convening this debate, which comes at a particularly crucial time for peacebuilding in Africa.

My delegations aligns itself with the statement to be made on behalf of the European Union. I wish, however, to make the following comments in my national capacity.

At the outset, it is necessary to underscore that Africa is not all made of one and the same cloth, and the diversity of situations there is great. The conditions in Africa vary from one subregion to the next. Peace, however, is struggling to take root in the various parts of the continent. Several African countries emerging from conflict are faced with significant challenges, such as Mali and the Central African Republic. Other countries that have made progress on the road to peacebuilding, such as Burundi, are again facing a crisis situation. South Sudan has just witnessed a new outbreak of violence and serious violations of human rights, nearly one year after signing a peace agreement. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the road to rolling out the electoral process remains long, but positive steps have just been taken, such as the granting of collective and individual pardons, in order to foster a political climate of trust within the national dialogue.

The concept note circulated for this debate (S/2016/586, annex) identifies a number of crucial elements for peacebuilding in Africa. Given the situations I just mentioned, one point appears essential for the United Nations system in general, and the Security Council and the missions that it mandates in particular, namely, the fragile and sensitive nature of transition situations. A peace agreement is often only the first step, rather than the conclusion of a process. That is fully reflected in the concept of sustaining peace, which has been enshrined in identical resolutions of the Security Council (resolution 2282 (2016)) and the General Assembly (resolution 70/262). Belgium urges the Security Council to fully integrate the perspective of sustaining peace in its future deliberations and decisions.

The holding of credible elections is a major challenge in the context of post-conflict and post-crisis transitions. That entails maintaining, both upstream and downstream, a political space where the freedom of expression and assembly prevails for all political actors and every component of civil society. Numerous countries on the continent, including a number of countries emerging from conflicts, have recently held, or are expected soon to hold, elections. Such periods are often marked by fragility and renewed tensions. They deserve our renewed attention so as to avoid turning back the democratic progress already achieved and to sustain the progress made in peacebuilding. We must pay particular attention to ensuring the holding of free, transparent and inclusive elections, which goes hand-in-hand — as I have already mentioned — with respect for human rights, including civil liberties, during every phase of the electoral process.

With regard to supporting the electoral process and post-election mediation, the United Nations and regional organizations have long been recognized as actors. It is important, however, that they agree upon shared principles. It is in the international community's interest that all stakeholders agree on the distribution of roles and on a common vision of what they want to accomplish in this area.

As reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals, the establishment or re-establishment of accountable and effective institutions in countries emerging from conflict is crucial — whether in the justice, security or public-finance sectors — along with the support of the relevant partners, such as international and regional financial institutions.

In that regard, we must underscore the international and regional initiatives aimed at improving transparency in the development and management of natural resources, including ensuring their traceability, ensuring that they do not fuel conflicts and ensuring transparency in financial flows resulting from the development of those resources. The rich natural resources of the African continent have not yet been transformed sufficiently into prosperity and employment opportunities for the population, nor into resources for the State. Proper and transparent governance of that sector is key for sustainable peace.

The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative is also worth noting. Beyond the organization of the sector of extractive industries, that process has committed the countries concerned to strengthen governance of their public finances. That initiative could play a very useful role in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1) because it encourages resource-rich countries to mobilize their revenues to benefit sustainable development. The illegal exploitation of natural resources has long fuelled the terrible cycle of armed conflict and made economic and social development impossible. We need an inclusive approach on the part of all stakeholders so as to rebuild trust among populations and mend the social contract between them and the authorities.

In conclusion, all of those efforts will be in vain if the root causes of the conflicts and crises in Africa, the sources of chronic instability, are not addressed. National ownership and the inclusiveness of the processes designed to respond to those situations are essential in efforts to achieve sustainable peace, as are — and this has not been emphasized enough — political will on the part of leaders, the increased participation of women in all peacebuilding processes and their role as development actors and actors in conflict prevention and conflict resolution.

The President: I now give the floor to Mr. Carl Hallergard, Minister Counsellor of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations.

Mr. Hallergard: I have the pleasure to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its member States. The candidate countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania; the country of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as Ukraine, Armenia and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

Allow me, first of all, to thank you, Sir, for taking the initiative to convene this open debate on an important topic and for the very valuable concept note (S/2016/586, annex). I also thank the Secretary-General, the Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Kenya, in her capacity as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, and the African Union (AU) Commissioner for Peace and Security for their briefings, as well as the many ministers who have spoken today, which is a testament to the importance of this debate. I also welcome the adoption of presidential statement S/PRST/2016/12.

The timing of this debate is very opportune, particularly in view of the recent decision by the African Union Summit in Kigali to operationalize the AU Peace Fund. The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, Ms. Federica Mogherini, and the European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Mr. Neven Mimica, both welcomed that development. As they stated, that decision represents an important step towards a system based on the African Union's own resources.

The European Union is the African Union's first partner, and EU cooperation on peace and security in Africa is handled primarily through a continental and regional perspective in the framework of the Africa-EU partnership. The EU remains committed to work with the African Union so as to ensure peace and security on the continent.

With regard to institution-building, the European Union has provided substantial financial support to a number of subregional organizations in Africa in order to increase their capacity to develop regional policies and enforce their implementation, and that has not been only in the field of peace and security. While there has been relatively good progress in the area of peace and security in our work with the AU, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), among others, which has sought to fulfil clear functions, the progress of regional integration initiatives and programmes has been undermined by a multitude of interrelated factors. Specific challenges vary from region to region, but overall some issues can be found everywhere. Member States often belong to various regional organizations with identical or overlapping mandates that serve various domestic objectives and agendas. Political mandates and regional ambitions are often not sufficiently underpinned with operational capacity and resources, which in turn limits their capacity to absorb the aid provided.

The European Union supports the African Union and its regional economic communities, first and foremost through the African Peace Facility. Since its establishment, in 2004, the African Peace Facility has contributed almost €1.6 billion to the African Union's peace and security agenda. Our support is used to build the capacity of the AU and its regional economic communities and to provide core funding for their operational work, including addressing emerging conflicts and ongoing crises. Recent examples include South Sudan, where IGAD is supported by the African Peace Facility to run the mediation process in Addis Ababa, and Burundi, where the East African Community is trying to contain the crisis. The African Peace Facility has also been supporting peacebuilding work in Somalia since 2007.

The African Peace Facility has been a game changer in terms of making a growing number of African-led responses to political crises on the continent possible. By providing the resources needed for those bodies to act, the Facility has enabled collective African security actions anchored in the nascent Peace and Security Council's political role, which has enabled it to be tested and put into action.

As was confirmed by the recently adopted two identical resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture, Security Council resolution 2282 (2016) and General Assembly resolution 70/268, conflict prevention has become part and parcel of sustaining peace and peacebuilding. The capacity to manage tensions in a swift and effective manner is critical for the success of any peace process. Regional and continental organizations are usually the best placed to do so, as long as they have the necessary mandate and capacities. Africa has several advantages in that regard on which we can build.

Through its African Peace and Security Architecture, Africa has a well-established framework for conflict management, including conflict prevention. Furthermore, the African Union and the regional economic communities have a clear will and mandate, expressed in the African Peace and Security Architecture road map for the period 2016-2020, to play a proactive role in preventing conflict on the continent and to acquire the necessary capacities to do so.

Those efforts need to be supported. An effective African preventive diplomacy capacity will no doubt have a major impact on peacebuilding in the continent. The European Union is already funding the development of a continental early-warning system, complemented by similar systems at the regional level, and the strengthening of mediation support units able to act on the basis of early warning analyses. The swiftness in deploying conflict-prevention efforts is also key to their success. It is therefore necessary that Africa's own funding efforts be supplemented by flexible, quickly disbursable funding. The African Peace Facility has put in place an early-recovery mechanism aimed precisely at that.

Peace-support operations that deploy deterrent forces aimed at ensuring that political tensions do not translate into open conflict can be critical to peacebuilding in particularly fragile situations. They provide the necessary time for national institutions to be strengthened and for the necessary trust among the parties to be established. That is an approach that has worked well in Guinea-Bissau, where the ECOWAS Security Mission in Guinea-Bissau, which has been funded by the EU since June 2015, has been instrumental in ensuring that tensions among the democratic institutions are addressed within the constitutional framework. South Sudan, unfortunately, provides a negative example.

While the African Peace Facility cannot provide direct training to national institutions, the mandate of the peace-support operations that it funds can include a component to train national-security institutions, such as the army or the police, within the framework of a wider State-building process. That is the case in Somalia, where the EU supports the African Union Mission in Somalia for the reconstruction of a training centre for the Somali national army and provides on-the-job training to police forces through joint patrolling and other activities.

The EU's involvement in conflict prevention and peacebuilding in Africa goes beyond the African Peace Facility. Apart from bilateral development cooperation programmes with many African countries that support good governance and inclusive participation through the European Development Fund, the EU also uses other foreign policy instruments, such as the instrument for contributing to stability and peace, EU election observation missions and common security and defence policy missions, such as in Mali and the Central African Republic. These are complemented by other instruments such as political dialogue, the use of preventive sanctions, humanitarian assistance, the work of EU special representatives and support to civil society, allowing for a comprehensive approach in fragile and conflict-affected situations.

The EU is also playing an active role as a full member of all the configurations of the Peacebuilding

Commission, where is it making constructive contributions to support ongoing efforts based on the comprehensive approach outlined earlier, thereby helping configuration Chairs to coordinate peacebuilding efforts and generate momentum and resources for the countries on the PBC's agenda. In the case of the Central African Republic, for example, the EU, as the largest donor in the country, is hosting a donors' conference in the fall to support the priorities of the newly elected authorities and is doing so in full coordination with United Nations interlocutors and the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, with the aim of agreeing on a compact.

To conclude, the EU will continue to be a strong proponent of and contributor to peacebuilding efforts in Africa, which is a challenge that we all need to tackle in close coordination with international partners and cooperation with ever more able African Governments and institutions willing to take the lead.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Kazakhstan.

Mr. Sadykov (Kazakhstan): The delegation of Kazakhstan commends Japan for having convened this open debate to strengthen peacebuilding in Africa through the more effective implementation of resolutions 2282 (2016) and General Assembly resolution 70/262, and the lessons learned as delineated in the 2015 report of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) Working Group. As a member-observer of the African Union and a strong supporter of Africa's revival, my delegation shares the region's vision for long-term peacebuilding.

The changing nature of conflict demands a new, robust and multidimensional strategy combining peacekeeping, peacebuilding and sustainable development with climate mitigation. A strategic, integrated and coherent approach to conflict-affected countries should be a priority from the onset of the conflict, and international attention must be sustained not just for years but even decades so as to prevent relapses.

The PBC now more than ever must serve an advisory bridging role among the various departments of the Secretariat, United Nations organs and entities and field operations, involving also all relevant actors, together with the various units — political, human rights, rule of law and gender — as well as peacekeeping operations and political missions.

Mediation, negotiations and reconciliation between conflicting sides aimed at resolving long-standing as well as newly emerging conflicts are the building blocks for the peacebuilding architecture. This task is best achieved through coordinating the efforts of the Secretary-General and the Special Representatives and Envoys, in conjunction with regional and subregional organizations.

The vast range of regional organizations in Africa as well as the World Bank, the African Development Bank and bilateral donors should be involved so as to advance the situation on the ground and ensure stable, predictable funding for capacity- and institution-building. We note the contribution of the European Union as a strong supporter of Africa.

In addition, parliamentarians and religious leaders, together with civil society, the private sector and the media, constitute an influential stakeholder arrangement. They promote State-building; the rule of law; good governance; the protection of civilians, especially women and children; the disarmament of combatants; security and justice sector reform; and inclusive political processes. This calls for broadening the concept of peace and stability from State-centred security to a people-oriented security, from purely military to non-military security, which includes food, water and energy security. In this reconstruction process for Africa, the women/youth and peace and security agenda must be overarching and supported by civil society and the larger multi-stakeholder arrangement.

Kazakhstan believes that there is the need for a global development strategy in order to create just structures and a just world order that can eliminate conflict for all time, because it is well known that underdevelopment and financial and digital inequality are the main causes of conflict. My delegation strongly believes that the international community must develop and implement a coherent assistance strategy to rebuild Africa.

Kazakhstan fully supports the vision of Africa 2063 to make the region conflict-free. Kazakhstan, along with the United Nations Development Programme, is implementing the Africa-Kazakhstan Partnership Project for Sustainable Development. We also were pioneers in establishing a regional centre for excellence in civil service to prepare professionals based on meritocracy, and we have great potential for a partnership with Africa. Kazakhstan stands ready to build peace in Africa as a steady and trusted mediator and partner.

The President: I now give the floor to the observer of the Observer State of the Holy See to the United Nations.

Monsignor Kassas (*spoke in French*): At the outset, my delegation would like to thank the Japanese presidency of the Security Council for having convened this open debate on peacebuilding in Africa.

The varied results of the peacebuilding efforts of African countries in post-conflict situations show that there is no one single model for peacebuilding. Certain countries have achieved peace and stability and sustainable development, while others continue to sink into extreme poverty, with unstable or even non-existent institutions.

My delegation would like to begin by mentioning the role that popular movements, faith-based organizations and local communities play in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. They have concrete knowledge of local realities and interact closely with the local population. They enable individuals and societies at the local level to identify and encourage the development of new leaders and to mobilize communities to work together for the common good. They achieve results that individuals and local communities can easily recognize and with which they can identify.

In that regard, the Catholic Church in Africa contributes directly to conflict prevention and peacebuilding, thanks to its ubiquitous presence as reflected by its tens of thousands of institutions, such as hospitals and dispensaries, as well as schools and other training centres. Catholic humanitarian and charity organizations work in all African countries in various areas, promoting dialogue in villages, providing emergency assistance and building the capacities of small businesses. The Holy See supervises this vast network of rapid-impact programs over the medium and the long term in order to optimize education and health-care services, ensure that conflict-prevention efforts continue and build peace through dialogue and comprehensive human development.

The Holy See believes that in order to achieve sustainable peace, people must be brought together in a spirit of dialogue, so that divergent positions can be heard and solutions found, agreed and implemented. Furthermore, the contributions of women and young people are particularly important to peacebuilding. In that respect, the Holy See commends the efforts of the Council and of national Governments to accord greater recognition to the vital role of women in preventive diplomacy, mediation and the peacebuilding process. Furthermore, the Holy See urges the United Nations and non-governmental organizations to recognize young people as active individuals, participants, leaders and partners in the peace process.

Conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts demand that we press to make more progress in disarmament and in controlling both the legal and the illegal arms trade. The proliferation of weapons exacerbates conflict and leads to an enormous cost, both human and material, which deeply affects the search for peace. It is the responsibility of the entire international community to take advantage of the concrete efforts in that area and to support the engagement of civil society and religious institutions to that end with a view to preventing conflicts.

Peacebuilding will not be effective unless human rights are promoted and encouraged, unless the human dignity of every human being is recognized and protected and unless we all stand together in mutual solidarity, leaving no one behind. During his visit to Brazil three years ago, Pope Francis said:

> "No amount of peacebuilding will be able to last, nor will harmony and happiness be attained in a society that ignores, pushes to the margins or excludes a part of itself. A society of that kind simply impoverishes itself, it loses something essential. We must never allow the throwaway culture to enter our hearts. We must never allow that because we are brothers and sisters. No one is disposable."

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of South Africa.

Mr. Matjila (South Africa): We commend you, Sir, for hosting this open debate of the Security Council on peacebuilding in Africa and for your country's continual support for Africa's development agenda.

The Security Council is charged with the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, and conflict prevention and peacebuilding, particularly on the African continent, form part of that mandate and, indeed, the mandate of the United Nations in general. South Africa believes that the key to sustainable peace consolidation lies in the strengthening of political approaches, including preventive diplomacy, conflict prevention and management, mediation and peacebuilding. That would ensure that countries not only seek to avert conflict but also address the challenges that could prevent countries from sliding back into conflict.

Consequently, South Africa agrees with the assertion in the report of the Advisory Group of Experts for the 2015 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture that peacebuilding

> "must be the principle that flows through all the Organization's engagements, informing all its activities — before, during and after violent conflicts — rather than being marginalized." (*S/2015/490, p. 3*)

In some way or form, the majority of Member States have been affected by conflict. What prevents those conflicts from having a disproportionate impact on Member States is the capacity of States, economies and societies to withstand such threats to their stability. That is the central tenant underlying the peacebuilding agenda: ensuring sustainable development and good governance in order to avoid relapses into conflict. Guarding against the spiralling of instability into full-blown conflict therefore becomes critical. In that regard, the sustained attention of the international community to countries emerging from conflict and the positive contributions from the international community to the stability, economic growth and development of such countries are fundamental to the global peace and security agenda.

In order to strengthen States in the continent emerging from post-conflict situations, the African Union (AU) has developed a post-conflict reconstruction and development policy. It is a guide for the development of comprehensive policies and strategies that seek to consolidate peace and prevent a relapse into conflict violence. In 2014, the AU also launched its African Solidarity Initiative, aimed at mobilizing support from within the continent for peacebuilding measures. All of those initiatives contribute to the ambition of the African Union's "Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want" in promoting dialogue-centred conflict prevention, so that by 2020 all guns will be silent.

We welcome resolution 2282 (2016), as well as the identical General Assembly resolution 70/262, adopted in April, which considered the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. Those resolutions recognize the important work of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) as a body presiding over and ensuring strategic coherence in international peacebuilding efforts. As is always the case, the development of national policies in the aftermath of conflict will not succeed without the positive provision of adequate, predictable and coherent funding, which in turn increases the possibility for sustainable peace.

South Africa, like other Member States, is intensely aware of the various challenges that the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) faces as a result of restricted funding. Therefore, the Security Council should welcome the announcement made by the African Union on Mandela Day, 18 July 2016, in Kigali, regarding the establishment of an African Union Peace Fund. We believe that that process will help balance and build on the actions of the PBC. The operationalization of the AU Peace Fund will be complemented by the establishment of a 0.2 per cent levy on eligible imports so as to address the previous financial challenges faced by the AU. The AU Peace Fund will, among other things, address factors regarding mediation, preventive diplomacy, institutional capacity-building and peace-support operations.

We must not lose sight of the sterling work that the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund have undertaken and continue to do. We are mindful of the fact that all of the countries on the PBC agenda are from Africa and that those countries have also received an estimated 80 per cent of the allocations granted by the Peacebuilding Fund between 2007 and 2014. Even at present, the Peacebuilding Fund is assisting in supporting the African Union Commission's efforts to provide peacebuilding initiatives in Burundi, which serves as a practical example of an action that illustrates the strengthening of cooperation between the AU and the United Nations in sustaining peace.

The lack of State authority and weak State institutions are conditions conducive to conflict. South Africa therefore supports strengthening the governance institutions of countries emerging from conflict and the promotion of good governance. It should be noted that the AU has adopted an African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, which sets out the continent's vision for good governance, which, in turn, ultimately supports peacebuilding and sustainable peace.

Finally, we call for the broadening of the concept of peacebuilding support to include not only financing for development, but also, in keeping with the idea behind the African Solidarity Initiative, in-kind support, such as the training and capacity-building of State institutions. Such in-kind initiatives will go a long way towards rebuilding State capacity to ensure peace, stability and development in a given country.

The idea of peacebuilding is based significantly on the understanding that peace cannot exist without development and that development cannot thrive without peace and stability. We believe that should underpin the United Nations approach to fulfilling its central mandate of the maintenance of international peace and security, which is strongly dependent on a prosperous and peaceful Africa.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Republic of Korea.

Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea): The Republic of Korea congratulates Japan on assuming the presidency of the Security Council this month and appreciates its important initiative in convening today's open debate entitled "Peacebuilding in Africa". I thank Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida for coming to New York to preside over this debate. I also thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his earlier briefing.

Since the last open debate on the topic of peacebuilding held in February (see S/PV.7629), resolution 2282 (2016) was adopted on 27 April, thereby concluding the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. Along with the substantially identical General Assembly resolution 70/262, it defined, for the first time, the concept of "sustaining peace," which established prevention as the core function of the United Nations work in the maintenance of peace and security. Furthermore, those resolutions clarified that the aim of peacebuilding is to prevent the outbreak, continuation, escalation, and recurrence of conflict. That new and ambitious approach to peacebuilding has been welcomed by many who face peace and security challenges, Africa in particular.

My delegation can attest to that reaction, as the Republic of Korea, in our capacity as Vice-Chair, joined the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) on his recent trip to West Africa. Throughout the tour of the region, we heard at first hand from Government officials and civil society the high expectations that they had of the United Nations renewed approach to peacebuilding. Allow me to briefly outline a few points that may help us chart our way forward.

First, priority should be given to institution-building, as was highlighted in the concept note circulated by the President (S/2016/586, annex). The Republic of Korea can be said to be one of the early recipients of United Nations post-conflict support — even before the concept of peacekeeping or peacebuilding had come into existence. In the immediate aftermath of the Korean War, in order to extricate the Republic of Korea from the dire circumstances that it found itself in, including extreme poverty, the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency was established to implement a range of projects aimed at restoring stability and laying the foundation for economic development. Early on in that process, we identified institution-building — in particular in the area of education — as a national priority that would supply the much-needed human resources for returning the country to normalcy. Drawing in part from our experience, President Park Geun-Hye underscored the importance of education as a core component of the Blueprint for Comprehensive Cooperation with Africa, unveiled during her address to the African Union (AU) on 28 May.

Secondly, a sustained and enduring commitment on the part of international partners is essential. Often in post-conflict environments, there is a prevailing general lack of trust among the many stakeholders — between the Government and its people, and among the different regions of the country. Under such circumstances, the prospects of a long-term engagement with the international community can act as a stabilizing agent, facilitating national cohesion.

In Africa, we view the African Union's African peace and security architecture framework — consisting of the African Union Commission, the African Union Peace and Security Council and the African Union Peace Fund, among others — as a natural complement to the United Nations peacebuilding architecture and a mechanism through which the international community can signal its strong commitment. In order to support our partners in Africa, the Republic of Korea has committed to increasing our financial contribution to the African Union Peace Fund. In that regard, we also welcome the recent decision at the AU Kigali Summit to revamp the Fund.

Finally, national ownership is of paramount importance. Governments in transition must play a leading role in identifying investment priorities, drawing up development strategies and carrying out their implementation. From our own experience, the sense of ownership, along with the spirit of self-help and cooperation, is what ignited the tapping of the potential of all, not just some, of our people.

I would like to reiterate the Republic of Korea's commitment to partnering with Africa in the cause of peace and stability. As our President promised a few months ago in Addis Ababa, Korea will travel together with Africa along the path towards a prosperous future.

The President: I now call on the representative of Denmark.

Mr. Petersen (Denmark): I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries — Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and my own country, Denmark.

Let me start by welcoming the adoption by the Security Council and the General Assembly of resolutions 2282 (2016) and 70/268, respectively, on peacebuilding in April. They were nothing less than a landmark. Let me also applaud the recent reviews undertaken by the United Nations of its peace operations and extend our full support to the continued process of implementing their recommendations.

The diversity and complexity of the various peacebuilding efforts in Africa call for a differentiated and comprehensive whole-of-government and whole-of-United Nations approach. The experience of the Nordic countries, for example, in supporting peacebuilding efforts in the Sahel, is a case in point, emphasizing the nexus between peace, security and development, and targeting the root causes of conflict. The inclusion of Goal 16 in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1) is a political testament to that.

Political solutions must be at the centre of any peace process, and for any credible political solutions to be found and adhered to, accountable, transparent and inclusive political leadership is needed. The most recent experiences from Somalia, Mali and South Sudan have once again made that clear. Despite the progress made, we must place still greater emphasis on conflict prevention and solution. In that effort, we need strong African leadership, and we have to place peacebuilding at the core of all of our actions.

The African Union and the various regional groups, institutions and dialogues, as well as the European Union and United Nations, each have a unique role to play in facilitating political processes. The Nordic countries highly commend the African Union on its efforts to advance peace and security in the African continent, including the roles played by the AU's Panel of the Wise, high-level panels, high representatives and special envoys.

We also commend the willingness of many African countries to contribute troops and other types of personnel. The African Union and the regional organizations are usually the first responders to crises in Africa, dispatching troops on short notice, often into dangerous environments and sadly, sometimes with tragic losses. We fully acknowledge the need to look for more predictable financial solutions for African Union peace missions, and we welcome the historic unanimous decision in Kigali, as mentioned by others, to finance the African Union and the African-led peace operations. We see that decision as an important step, and we look forward to supporting its implementation. We also note the appointment of President Kagame of Rwanda to lead the ongoing institutional reform of the African Union aimed at further improving its effectiveness.

In order to counter the emergence of new threats — internal or regional — strong governance structures are required. As we work to adapt and revitalize the United Nations structures to conform to the realities of today, it is important to note that the African Union has in fact developed and operationalized its own peace and security architecture and its governance architecture. Reinforcing the strong linkages between those African structures and the United Nations peacebuilding architecture is, of course, essential.

In addition, further progress on implementing resolution 1325 (2000) and resolution 2242 (2015) is imperative. Women remain the single most underutilized resource in effective peacebuilding. Experience shows that empowering women and supporting their full and active participation in peace-related, political and economic decision-making leads to more inclusive and lasting agreements. That has to be the central component in any mediation and conflict prevention effort.

Finally, we must remember that to achieve sustainable peace and long-term development, real inclusiveness is the key. The entire country has to be heard, respected and involved, and including civil society is the best way to do this. The people of Burkina Faso showed recently how a powerful and active civil society can be the key to maintaining stability and democracy.

Let me conclude by affirming that the Nordic countries are pleased to bear witness to the ongoing process in the United Nations and by reiterating the unique mandate and the role of the Organization in securing a sustainable and peaceful Africa.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Côte d'Ivoire.

Mr. Bouah-Kamon (Côte d'Ivoire) (*spoke in French*): On behalf of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of my country, I wish to thank you, Mr. President, for the honour that was done him by inviting him to this high-level meeting. However, owing to scheduling constraints, he is unable to take part in this meeting and has therefore instructed me to convey his regrets and wishes of every success in our work.

I would first like to welcome this Security Council initiative under the Japanese presidency. It provides us with a platform for exchange and the opportunity to share our experiences in the area of peacebuilding with a view to promoting a stable and lasting peace, especially in African States that have been riven and weakened by crises.

One of the keys to the success of an effective peacebuilding process remains the existence of a common strategy that enjoys national ownership and has clear priorities. In Côte d'Ivoire, which endured nearly a decade of unrest that undermined the strength of its main institutions, the authorities were able to refocus on progress, relying on the Ivorian people's capacity to develop resilience and achieve peace. For the Ivorian Government, social cohesion, national reconciliation and the normalization of political life are fundamental factors in building a climate of lasting peace conducive to development.

With the support of the United Nations system, my Government has put in place the national Peacebuilding Priority Action Plan, which centres on several programmatic areas, including the restoration of State authority and community safety; support for national reconciliation, social cohesion and conflict-risk reduction; and identification of and support for vulnerable populations. The first phase, covering the period from 2011 to 2014, was funded by the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the amount of $11.15. The implementation of that phase made it possible to rehabilitate several security and administrative structures in urban areas, particularly in the west of the country; to build the capacity of the police and the gendarmerie; to register several hundred thousand births; and to reform the Ivorian civil State.

In order to consolidate those gains and take into account the remaining challenges, a second phase for the period from 2015 to 2017 is under way, with funding in the amount of $15 million, including $12 million already mobilized by the Peacebuilding Support Office and $3 million mobilized by the Ivorian Government. The implementation of this phase will eventually make it possible to iron out and resolve land disputes in rural areas and difficulties linked to identification, among other issues.

With regard to national reconciliation and sustainable cohesion, in addition to creating the ministry responsible for social cohesion and compensation for victims, in 2011 the Ivorian Government set up a dialogue, truth and reconciliation commission, which was recently superseded by the National Commission for Reconciliation and Compensation of Victims. Moreover, the high rate of implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process — around 94 per cent — and the promising results of security sector reform help strengthen the defence of territorial integrity and the establishment of the rule of law. Furthermore, the creation of a high authority for good governance contributes to promoting the values of public management.

Ultimately, this plan has enabled the Ivorian Government to achieve notable results, including the smooth running of the presidential election of October 2015, the capacity of the Ivorian justice system to operate independently, and the promotion of youth employment. All these achievements of the Ivorian Government headed by President Alassane Ouattara led the Security Council to adopt resolution 2284 (2016) on 28 April, extending the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire for a final term, until June 2017.

The Ivorian experience can be continued and strengthened. However, I cannot conclude my statement without reiterating the gratitude of the Ivorian Government and people for the invaluable role that the United Nations has played and continues to play. Thanks to this serious support, Côte d'Ivoire has resumed its forward march and is back on the path of stability, growth and social and economic development.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Canada.

Mr. Grant (Canada) (*spoke in French*): Canada welcomes the opportunity to participate in this important debate on peacebuilding in Africa and its particular focus on institution-building. We know from experience that strengthening national institutions is essential to managing conflict and breaking cycles of violence and fragility. We also know that building inclusive and accountable institutions is a long-term endeavour.To enable local actors to meet the needs and aspirations of African States, the process must rely on the commitment and efforts of those actors.

I would like to briefly highlight three points: the need to support and promote African ownership of peacebuilding efforts in Africa, the importance of creating inclusive institutions that meet the needs of all sectors of society, and the importance of ensuring coherence across the United Nations system.

First, supporting and promoting national ownership — in line with the commitments to country ownership set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States — should be an essential part of our peacebuilding efforts in Africa. The African Union and regional economic communities have taken on a greater role in responding to conflict and peacebuilding, supported by the United Nations and its regional offices. Strengthening the capacity of these organizations and further strengthening the relationship between the United Nations and the African Union will contribute to ensuring effective responses to conflict and establishing a lasting peace.

Canada is committed to supporting its partners in Africa in further developing continental capacity in peacebuilding. For example, Canada has strengthened the capacities of the Tanzanian Peacekeeping Training Centre to conduct peacekeeping training for African peacekeepers.

(*spoke in English*)

Secondly, for institutions to be effective, we know that they must be both inclusive and accountable. This is reflected in Sustainable Development Goal 16 (see resolution 70/1, annex). If we are serious about building inclusive and accountable institutions that can sustain peace, we must ensure that traditionally marginalized voices have a voice at the table. This means engaging women, youth and civil society at all levels of decision-making.

In Mali, for example, Canada is supporting efforts to strengthen the justice system by increasing access of those affected by conflict, particularly women and youth. Canada is also proud to be supporting the work of Malian civil society organizations to ensure that the criminal justice system is able to judge cases of corruption and human rights crimes in a fair manner. These initiatives are implemented through a peacebuilding lens, supporting local leaders, especially women and young people, working in reconciliation and conflict prevention.

Thirdly, we must address the deficiencies and shortcomings in our own approach to peacebuilding. We know that institution-building takes time — measured in decades, not years — yet we design mission mandates on a short-term basis. We also know that some institutions seem to matter more for sustaining peace, particularly institutions that provide security to citizens, access to justice, and jobs, yet these are the areas where we invest the fewest resources. We know the importance of broad engagement in laying the foundation for sustainable peace and development, and we develop ambitious mandates for our United Nations operations. Yet the United Nations programmes that carry out most of this work in-country are underresourced. There is something fundamentally wrong with this approach, and it needs to change.

In closing, let me highlight again that the development of inclusive and accountable institutions must be at the heart of United Nations efforts to sustain peace. The 2030 Agenda and the recent resolutions on the peacebuilding architecture lay out a clear road map for how the entire United Nations system can improve its effectiveness in support of sustaining peace. Canada looks forward to supporting those efforts.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Poland.

Mr. Radomski (Poland): First of all, I wish to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this very important meeting.

Poland aligns itself with the statement delivered by the observer of the European Union. I would like to present several comments from our national perspective.

We regard the issue of peacebuilding in Africa as a matter of utmost importance, especially in the light of recently adopted Security Council and General Assembly resolutions on the peacebuilding architecture that characterize sustaining peace as a core responsibility of the entire United Nations system. I would like to point out a few issues that we consider significant in the current context.

Sustaining peace cannot be achieved without inclusive, effective and accountable institutions and the rule of law. Institutions strongly determine the allocation of resources, functioning of markets, delivery of social services and management of natural resources. They often help to find effective solutions to conflicts, improve access to justice and protection of human rights. Economic and social reforms are less likely to bring long-lasting changes if they are not anchored in a stable and transparent democratic governmental system.

Regional and subregional organizations play an important role in the peacebuilding process. We appreciate the role of the African Union and the regional economic communities in institution-building. We believe that initiatives like the African Governance Architecture and the African Peace and Security Architecture help to maintain peace and security while supporting the wider integration of the entire continent. The challenge lies in maintaining a constant commitment to these initiatives. It is important to assure gradual transfer of responsibility to African partners — also in the form of co-financing — and to mobilize resources from external actors.

The inclusion of African women, youth and civil society in the decision-making processes is important for the advancement of peacebuilding efforts in the long term. We welcome the acknowledgement by African leaders of the role of women, youth and civil society in Agenda 2063 and the declaration of the year 2016 as the African Year of Human Rights with Particular Focus on the Rights of Women.

With respect to the role of youth, let me stress that education is essential to sustaining peace, as it contributes to political, economic and social transformations in society. That is why Poland has provided financial support in recent years to educational projects in various African countries, including Ethiopia and South Sudan.

Building the capacities of military forces and local police, establishing a credible justice system and fighting corruption should be high on our list of priorities. Experience gained from various crisis-management missions and operations indicates that training of police and military forces should be accompanied by proper equipment support.

It is important to strengthen the activity of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund. In this regard, we welcome the initiative of organizing the high-level conference for the Peacebuilding Fund under the theme "Invest in Sustaining Peace", to be held on 21 September 2016 on the margins of the General Assembly's upcoming general debate.

Much has been said today about Africa's unique features with regard to peacebuilding. In light of this, I would like to conclude by expressing our confidence that building sustained peace on the African continent is possible, mostly thanks to the open-mindedness, creativity and tremendous optimism of the proud African people.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Indonesia.

Mr. Djani (Indonesia): We thank you, Mr. President, for convening today's important open debate. We also thank the Secretary-General and the other briefers for their comments.

Considered against the historical injustices of colonialism, apartheid and other obstacles to development, the progress in Africa has been no small feat. By establishing democracy, rule of law and institutions that serve citizens, a number of African countries have fared well. Where political dialogue, reconciliation and coexistence have been embraced, gradual stability has led to strong economic progress. Indeed, as in other parts of the world, Africa is not alone in dealing with conflicts. But just as in other situations, it is paramount that parties be supported fully in resolving their disputes peacefully. It is also vital that the United Nations and other partners assist affected countries effectively in their capacity-building and broader peacebuilding, in line with their nationally identified priorities. The national ownership of their peacebuilding and development is crucial.

As a country that has itself navigated its path from autocracy and instability to democracy, rule of law, equitable development, harmony and a vibrant and resilient economy, Indonesia knows well the imperative of peacemaking and a fully owned national undertaking for sustainable peace and development. Indonesia is heartened that Africa stands resolutely for honouring the desires and aspirations of African people. Many courageous African leaders are working diligently to bring peace and prosperity and to end discord and poverty. They tireless in their fight against disease, hunger, poor governance, corruption and extremism and to hasten their citizens' enjoyment of the rewards of democracy.

We are also pleased that, just as in our own region of South-East Asia, where the Association of Southeast Asian Nations plays a critical rote, the African Union (AU) has been a strong force for dialogue, peaceful conflict resolution and cordial relations among African countries. The African leaders' declaration to achieve a conflict-free Africa — a key pillar of the visionary AU Agenda 2063 — is commendable. Indonesia supports the five thematic priorities of the new AU Peace and Security Architecture Roadmap 2016-2020. We also congratulate African Governments on the outcome of the twenty-seventh AU Summit. The operationalization of the Peace Fund, which also fulfils Africa's commitment to finance 25 per cent of the cost of AU peace support operations, is yet another concrete sign of Africa's determination to build embrace peacebuilding. The United Nations and the international community must also robustly play their roles to further assist African countries and the AU in ushering in peace and well-being.

Since the convening of the Asian-African Conference in Bandung more than six decades ago, Indonesia has attached high importance to Africa. At the Asian-African Summit in Indonesia last year, the Asian and African leaders, reiterating the unshakable historic bond between the two continents, formulated important, comprehensive steps to bolster Africa in achieving its aims.

Indonesia's support to African countries will always be there. Our bilateral cooperation and training programmes for civilian capacity-building and other fields will expand further. Our National Peacekeeping Centre provides training in multidimensional peacekeeping and peacebuilding to personnel from a number of African countries and will continue to do so. Currently, 1,537 Indonesian troops and police are participating in eight United Nations peacekeeping operations in Africa: the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan, the United Nations Mission in Liberia, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei and the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara.

My delegation hopes that the intergovernmental momentum generated in the wake of the review of United Nations peace operations and peacebuilding and the global study of resolution 1325 (2000) will also be utilized to intensify efforts in prevention, mediation, finding credible political solutions and deepening partnerships with the AU and its mechanisms.Following the adoption of resolution 2282 (2016), on the review of the peacebuilding architecture, we look forward to a more productive partnership of the Security Council with the Peacebuilding Commission and other relevant United Nations and non-United Nations entities to advance more effective peacebuilding in Africa. It is also our expectation that the Peacebuilding Commission will, by learning from its previous work and optimally using all provisions of the new and past resolutions, enable more impactful peacebuilding in African countries.

Finally, Indonesia would like to underscore the need for a comprehensive approach that incorporates peace and security, development, and human rights to address the root causes of conflicts. The United Nations system must see to it that these three concerns do not exist in unbridgeable silos and that its response is integrated, sustained and in accordance with the needs of the affected peoples.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of India.

Mr. Lal (India): We welcome this discussion on peacebuilding in Africa, which is of relevance not only to the African continent but to all of us in our interdependent world.

India has a long-standing engagement with Africa. We have worked together on decolonization and against apartheid and for the rights of developing countries and are now significant development partners.

Indian contingents have served in 22 peacekeeping missions in 16 African countries so far, including 6 countries at present. India has engaged actively in international peace and security issues, including in the Security Council. India remains the largest cumulative troop contributor to United Nations peacekeeping efforts and has been a member of the Peacebuilding Commission since its inception. We appreciate the complexity of the changing nature of conflicts and the challenges in conflict prevention and building peace.

India firmly believes that conflict prevention and resolution must be primarily a political activity. Also, peace and security cannot be seen in isolation from the wider development-related issues. A more holistic approach is needed to prevent conflict and build peace.

The Peacebuilding Commission has not been taken seriously enough at the United Nations so far. Its funding is completely inadequate — not even 1 per cent of the peacekeeping budget. We need to empower the Peacebuilding Commission through adequate resources, capacities to gauge the requirements on the ground and serious consideration by the Council of its advice.

The recent adoption of resolutions by the General Assembly and the Security Council on the issue of sustaining peace reflects a growing recognition by the international community of the long-term importance of peacebuilding efforts, an aspect that is still not fully grasped. We especially welcome the emphasis given to the importance of sustainable development, economic growth and enhanced funding.

Last year we finalized the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1), thereby underscoring the importance of sustainable development in building peace and security. Also last year, the African Union adopted Agenda 2063, which incorporates a similar vision of extensive strengthening of institutions and capacities.

The spirit displayed during the adoption of the SDGs has not, sadly, been matched in the discussions on the collective mobilization of resources to achieve our common goals. That once again demonstrates a lack of appreciation that in today's world there cannot be islands of peace and prosperity. We can see this all around us in the cross-border reach of terrorist groups, the growing refugee crisis, the outbreaks of pandemics and the spread of hate ideologies.

In the past couple of decades, the African Union (AU) and some African regional groups have undertaken peacekeeping initiatives in about 20 conflicts within Africa. Coordination between the Secuirty Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council has become institutionalized. Over the last decade, several African countries have emerged as major troop contributors. Six of the current top 10 troop-contributing countries (TCCs) are African, and Africa today contributes the largest number of personnel to peacekeeping. There are 38 African countries providing half of all United Nations peacekeepers, 60 per cent of the international civilian peacekeepers and 80 per cent of its national peacekeeping staff. That is in addition to the participation in non-United Nations peacekeeping operations by our African friends, which accounts for several thousand more. We welcome those developments, including the recent decision by the AU to achieve greater self-reliance in terms of its peace and security budget through a peace fund.

The AU, regional organizations and national Governments in Africa are best placed to address most of the challenges facing their region. However, it is the responsibility of the international community, in our collective interest, to strengthen their capabilities.

The huge success of the third India-Africa Forum Summit of last October, in which all of our 54 African partners participated, has taken our long-standing and growing partnership to an even higher level. It was reinforced by a series of visits to Africa by our President, Vice President and Prime Minister in the first half of this year. Our cooperation with Africa has focused on sharing expertise and resources and helping to build capacity as per their own priorities. Our areas of cooperation include education and vocational training, health care, women's empowerment, constitutional and parliamentary processes, digital connectivity for tele-education and telemedicine, e-governance, clean energy, agricultural productivity, agribusinesses, climate change adaptation, disaster management, the blue economy, maritime security, infrastructure and trade, investment and technology linkages.

In the past five years, India has offered nearly 25,000 scholarships for more than 300 training programmes in more than 60 institutions in Africa. In the past decade, a total of nearly $9 billion in concessional credit was approved for nearly 140 development projects in more than 40 African countries, with special emphasis on the least developed countries and small island developing States partners.

The first-ever female formed police unit was provided by India and deployed in Liberia. It was recognized as a role model for pursuing gender balance. Earlier this week, a course on United Nations peacekeeping for African partners commenced in India in cooperation with the Government of the United States. It is aimed at assisting in building the capacities of African TCCs to help regional efforts to maintain peace and security.

All those efforts have played a part in assisting Africa in building its own capacities in terms of human resources, institutions, appropriate technologies, infrastructure and employment opportunities. Many of those efforts have been in countries emerging from long periods of conflict. All such efforts help to promote development, improve lives and build peace and prosperity. What continues to elude us is a real comprehension of the importance of sustainable development in building peace and security and, even more importantly, of the indivisibility of peace and security across borders in today's world. Without that comprehension and consequently the political will to address these issues over the longer term, conflicts will continue to obstruct our collective better future.

Last week, India demonstrated its commitment to the cause of peacebuilding in the United Nations context by making a contribution of $1 million to the Peacebuilding Fund. We hope that other partners will come forward to commit resources, including at the pledging conference on peacebuilding in September.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Israel.

Mr. Danon (Israel): As we approach the end of the month, I would like to commend Japan for its able leadership of the Security Council.

The peoples and nations on the continent of Africa are among the most resilient on the planet. States, communities and families across Africa have known decades of poverty, civil war and ethnic conflict, but they are determined to overcome those challenges. They are driven by the hope of a continent at peace and by the promise of a bright future. The State of Israel is committed to partnering with our friends in Africa in order to achieve not only stability and security, but also prosperity.

In order to ensure sustainable growth that will last for generations, the international community must work together to build the kind of peace that will last for generations. Resolution 2282 (2016) on the peacebuilding architecture is an ambitious statement that challenges us to rethink how we see peacebuilding. A comprehensive approach must address all stages of conflict — after, during and before. Therefore peacebuilding must not wait until the fighting begins to take action. Bringing an end to ongoing violence and rebuilding communities post-conflict are important to all of us. But we need to develop prevention capabilities in order to avoid escalation and stop conflicts before they even start. That will require acting on several fronts.

First, now is the time to focus our resources to build institutions on the ground that enable States to sustain peace and resolve tensions before they lead to conflict and violence. Secondly, we must promote strong mechanisms for national reconciliation, including justice and governance and focusing on national ownership and inclusivity. Finally, we need to understand that in our world today, the impact of disease, terror and conflict is no longer limited to any one region or any one people. They are collective challenges that must be met by collective action.

Ensuring post-conflict stability requires the full and active participation of all actors in society. We need to empower local communities and encourage more women to take part in peacebuilding and conflict resolution. Israel believes that the inclusion of women is the key to opening the door to a sustainable peace in Africa and around the world. Every year, in cooperation with UN-Women, Mashav — Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation — organizes a workshop for African women on political empowerment of women. The goal is to discuss the role of and opportunities for women in peacebuilding, mediation and conflict resolution. Participants from several of the countries on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission have been trained by Mashav, in Israel and abroad, in courses on various topics including community development, women's leadership and economic empowerment.

We are also proud to have played a role in fighting the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. Israel was the largest donor per capita in the international effort to end the deadly disease. That is part of our ongoing commitment to help bring about a safer, more secure future for the people of Africa. A few weeks ago, our Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, went on an historic visit to Africa, the first visit by an Israeli Prime Minister to the continent in three decades. At the start of his visit, Prime Minister Netanyahu declared that "Israel is coming back to Africa and Africa is coming back to Israel".

Israel is committed to strengthening old ties in Africa and building new partnerships for the twenty-first century. I am proud to announce today that just last week, the State of Israel established ties with the Republic of Guinea, and our Governments have already started to discuss the many ways our new partnership can be beneficial for the people of Israel and the people of Guinea. The State of Israel looks forward to working together with Guinea and other African nations towards pursuing a common agenda and building a common future.

Africa is not only rich in natural resources, it is also rich in human talent and energy and hope. By mid-century, 37 per cent of the world's children will live in Africa. The continent's future will be shaped by its dynamic and vibrant youth, who are more empowered and engaged than ever before. In order to unleash that vast potential, we need a long-term, sustained international effort to ensure that this generation of young people enjoys a safe and secure tomorrow.

Israel is committed to our partnership with the people and the nations of Africa to work together to make that future a reality.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Ireland.

Mr. Mawe (Ireland): I hank you, Mr. President, for convening today's debate.

Ireland aligns itself with the statement delivered by the observer of the European Union. In our national statement, we will respond to the helpful concept note (S/2016/586, annex) by outlining four high-priority issues that we believe need to be addressed in order to ensure effective peacebuilding in Africa.

First, we need to tackle the root causes of conflict. We cannot talk seriously about promoting peace without exploring the factors that threaten it in the first instance. That was evident during the recent processes leading to the adoption of the peacebuilding resolutions by the Security Council and the General Assembly, as well as last year's negotiations of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) — especially SDG 16.

The need to understand the drivers of conflict is nowhere more present than in countries emerging from crisis. In such cases, peace is at a stage of such fragility that it is more easily destroyed than sustained. As we in Ireland have seen through close engagement with our partner countries such as Liberia and Sierra Leone, multi-stakeholder conflict analyses must ensure that peacekeeping mission drawdowns are backstopped by the technical and financial support needed to build the capacity of national institutions to sustain peace.

I am happy to say that we are moving in the right direction. Last Tuesday in this Chamber (see S/PV.7747), we heard the Permanent Representative of the Central African Republic welcome the renewal of the innovative mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, which is tailored to specific national priorities. Moreover, a focus of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) on transitional settings and the provision of catalytic, post-conflict funding through the Peacebuilding Fund has also yielded very encouraging results. Those are the kind of initiatives that we need to see more of if SDG 16 and the objectives of the peacebuilding resolutions are to be achieved.

A second high-priority issue is conflict prevention. For many years, conflict prevention has been underresourced and underevaluated. The case of Burundi has reinforced for us the urgent need for investment in conflict prevention. During this year mediators in that country have dealt with roughly 430 cases a month, receiving requests for interventions from community members, local authorities and, in some cases, provincial governors.

The financial resources needed to empower a mediator to intervene in one conflict are almost inconsequential compared to the enormous costs arising from dealing with the fallout of conflict after it has escalated. Ireland has been pleased to support such mediation through investment in the Global Acceleration Instrument for Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action, which was called for by the Global Study on resolution 1325 (2000).

We also welcome the work already undertaken by the current and past Chairs of the PBC in forging a stronger role for the Commission in conflict prevention, particularly through its potential for interaction with the Security Council. We look to advance such progress and explore how it can bolster other United Nations activities, such as the Secretary-General's Human Rights Up Front initiative.

Thirdly, as other speakers mentioned, we must include youth and women. Thus far, we simply have not done enough to include women and young people in peacebuilding. The global study on resolution 1325 (2000) showed us that the inclusion of women in peace processes has led to a 20 per cent increase in peace agreements lasting at least two years, which rises to a 35 per cent increase over 15 years. We also saw at first hand the crucial role for women in building peace on our own island of Ireland. The lessons we learned have informed our efforts to advance the women, peace and security agenda both nationally and internationally and have also been shared with partner countries, such as Liberia.

The case for supporting the youth, peace and security agenda is just as clear, particularly in Africa. According to some sources, by the end of this century almost one half of the world's youth will be African. Ireland is exploring ways to answer the call of the peacebuilding resolutions to increase the participation of youth in building peace in Africa, including through our trade and development links.

Finally, we must prioritize African ownership of Africa's peacebuilding. There will be no peace in Africa that is not led by Africans. Similarly, African economic growth will only be sustainable if it is driven from within. We firmly believe that efforts to strengthen the United Nations peacebuilding engagement in Africa will succeed only if they are designed and implemented in full cooperation with African stakeholders and with the full participation of all African States.

Increasingly, the strength of such collaboration is being harnessed. Examples include the ground-breaking partnership between the Peacebuilding Fund and the AU Commission in Burundi, as well as the growing focus of the PBC on building stronger ties with the AU and African sub-regional organizations. Region-to-region initiatives, such as the Africa-EU partnership, which can be seen in the form of the African Peace Facility, are also encouraging.

Not only must we break down silos so as to forge a whole-of-United Nations approach to peacebuilding, we must do that in a way that supports Africa's own policies and objectives. That is no mean feat, and we welcome initiatives like today's debate. They afford us an opportunity to share experiences on how we have been doing so far but, more importantly, to listen to ideas on how we can do better.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Slovakia.

Mr. Ružička (Slovakia): I wish to thank you, Sir, for convening this open debate on peacebuilding in Africa.

Slovakia fully aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier on behalf of the European Union and its member States. In addition, I wish to make several remarks in my national capacity.

Where violent conflict breaks out, development is arrested, and the impact, especially on the poor, can be devastating. The recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals have reinforced the consensus within the international community that security, peace and the rule of law are indispensable to sustainable development. Key to the transition from conflict to peace and sustainable development is an effective and accountable system of security based on the rule of law. The notion that security, development and the rule of law are inextricably linked has resonated in United Nations policies and debates for more than a decade. The link between a responsive, effective and accountable security sector, including through its reform, and peace and stability is widely accepted among Member States and experts alike, and has been acknowledged repeatedly by the Security Council, including in its resolution 2151 (2014).

On 21 June, the co-Chairs of the United Nations Group of Friends of Security-Sector Reform, Slovakia and South Africa, in cooperation with the United Nations Security Sector Reform Task Force, along with its secretariat and the Security Sector Reform Unit at the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, facilitated a high-level dialogue on building support for key security-sector reform priorities in the Central African Republic. That event provided a unique platform for a discussion among high-ranking representatives of the Government of the Central African Republic, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Head of the United Nations Multidimensional

Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, as well as representatives of key partners, including the United Nations, the European Union, the World Bank and bilateral donors.

The dialogue focused on two priorities. First, speakers reflected on the elements of the national security-sector reform process that are needed to secure lasting peace and prevent a relapse into conflict. Secondly, there was a focus on immediate and long-term reform needs pertaining to security-sector institutions, including the police, gendarmerie, military, and relevant civilian control and oversight bodies. The role of local communities and their capacity to meaningfully participate in the provision of security and fulfil their democratic oversight role were noted, as well.

In order to be an effective tool in peacebuilding, security sector reform needs to be truly representative of a State's people. Particular emphasis was therefore placed on the key elements of national ownership and the importance of national responsibility and political consensus in that regard. Throughout the high-level dialogue, security sector reform was highlighted as a key tool for preventing relapse into conflict and, as such, the need for a strategic approach to security-sector reform in the Central African Republic was stressed by many speakers. In the coming days, the co-Chairs will present the outcome of those deliberations to the Secretary-General, the General Assembly, the Security Council and the wider membership.

With the adoption of the two resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture (resolution 2282 (2016) and General Assembly resolution 70/268), the Organization has taken a decisive step forward and has generated promising momentum. Together, we must now champion those changes and create a peacebuilding architecture that will deliver on the critical, ever-evolving peacebuilding tasks.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Rwanda.

Mrs. Byaje (Rwanda): I thank you, Sir, and your delegation for organizing this important debate. Allow me also to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon; Her Excellency Ms. Amina Mohamed, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Kenya; and His Excellency Ambassador Smail Chergui, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union (AU), for their briefings.

This debate is indeed timely in the light of the numerous relapses and the two conflicts raging in our beautiful continent, Africa. We therefore believe that recommendations generated by discussions of this nature can significantly contribute to the improvement and streamlining of practices in peacebuilding and provide stakeholders with adequate responses aimed at curbing the proliferation of conflicts. The parallel reviews of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture — the report of the Advisory Group of Experts (S/2015/490) and the report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (S/2015/446) — and the global study on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), coupled with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1), afford the United Nations with the opportunity to rethink how to adequately and strategically engage in the effort to sustain peace.

If we look at the trajectory of my own country, Rwanda, during the past 22 years — that of a failed State in a post-conflict situation, which has become one of the many contributors to peacekeeping operations — we can rightly state that peacebuilding is an important process, not only in dealing with the aftermath of conflicts but also in laying the foundations that sustain peace, thereby contributing to long-term conflict prevention. However, as the recently concluded review of the peacebuilding architecture has indicated, peacebuilding is both a political and technical process and the United Nations continues to struggle to close critical gaps as it tries to apply existing top-down technical strategies to the political realities on the ground, which has led to its inability to fill the gaping hole identified in 2005.

For countries on the Peacebuilding Commission's (PBC) agenda, as well as for other countries in which peacebuilding activities are ongoing, the relapses into conflict lead one to question whether local political mechanisms, capacities and conflict dynamics have been taken into account in the formulation of peacebuilding programmes. The deteriorating developments in some countries in Africa are, unfortunately, very concerning, especially with regard to those that had achieved a degree of progress earlier. There is a need for the international community, in general, and the United Nations, in particular, to adopt targeted post-conflict measures that address the root causes of a particular conflict, while, at the same time, respecting the specificity of each situation.

We share the views expressed in the concept note (S/2016/586, annex) relating to how supporting institution-building and ensuring national ownership have helped to lay the foundation for sustainable peace. We also believe that the processes of democratization, the rule of law, unity and reconciliation, as well as inclusive social economic development, help to build a society resilient to conflict and should be viewed as key pillars when addressing the root causes of conflicts.

It is regrettable, however, to note that the Council tends to react more to ongoing conflict rather than deal effectively with vital aspects such as prevention. While other United Nations specialized agencies have played a greater role in those areas, the Security Council could still play a more proactive role, especially in countries on its agenda and/or where peace operations have been deployed. In that respect, the report of the Advisory Group of Experts summarily concluded that sustaining peace is not a peripheral activity for the United Nations, but a core task implicit in the Charter of the United Nations, which should be applied across the whole United Nations spectrum. The report further states, in its conclusion, that the Peacebuilding Commission needs to be revitalized so as to increase its ability to better support efforts to find sustainable and durable solutions. Those include the enhancement of its advisory and coordination role, the marshalling of resources and continued advocacy on behalf of the countries on its agenda, as well as acting as a bridge between the principal organs of the United Nations, including the Council.

We therefore call for continued advocacy on behalf of the countries on the agenda and deem it imperative to help underscore the political and socioeconomic progress made to attract assistance and/or investment aligned with national priorities. However, such priorities cannot materialize without predictable and sustainable financing. It is deplorable to note that in some of the countries on the agenda, many of the peacebuilding projects have either collapsed or failed owing to the absence of a sustained funding model, as many of them had short financing cycles that could not be pursued beyond the immediate aftermath of the conflict. To offset this problem, we hope to see a more enhanced and more flexible Peacebuilding Fund playing a greater role in this regard.

Despite the challenges in specific country configurations, we are nonetheless encouraged by the efforts deployed by the country-specific configuration Chairs, particularly the increased number of visits to countries on the agenda to interact with various stakeholders. These practices could provide opportunities to increase awareness of the situation at hand and where necessary contribute to the accuracy of the information at the disposal of the United Nations that could lead to taking appropriate action.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Portugal.

Mr. Mendonça e Moura (Portugal): I wish to thank Japan for having convened this open debate, which is extremely pertinent and timely.

A large number of African countries continue to struggle with cycles of poverty and refugee issues as a result of conflicts that have undermined socioeconomic development efforts and afflict millions of men, women and children. The international community must take a stand and face this challenge. The continuous effort to implement sustainable peace in Africa has to be a common endeavour.

The peacebuilding concept introduced at the United Nations in 1992 remains to be fully developed. The recent review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture represented important progress. By extending the scope of peacebuilding to encompass every stage, from conflict prevention to post-conflict reconstruction, it has shown that peace can be better preserved if it is understood as an integrated and systemic concept that goes beyond the mere cessation of hostilities. In fact, only by jointly engaging the three pillars of the United Nations and avoiding silos can the peacebuilding approach succeed.

Africa has been at the heart of the United Nations peacebuilding system since its inception. African countries are currently the sole focus of the Peacebuilding Commission's (PBC) agenda and therefore the main beneficiaries of the Peacebuilding Fund. They are also the primary recipients of United Nations peacekeeping missions. At the same time, and this is seldom underlined, Africa has reason to be a central actor in terms of peace and stability both inside its borders and at the global level. Africa is a contributor of about half of the total number of peacekeepers deployed worldwide. Africa has developed the African Peace and Security Architecture, a unified structure at the continental scale endowed with peace-consolidation instruments.

Africa has a number of regional institutions that go beyond economic integration to focus also on peace and security, and Africa has proved to be a pre-eminent security provider, developing a number of important peacekeeping operations, increasingly through partnerships between the African Union (AU) and other international stakeholders, including the European Union.

In this regard, the African continent and the European Union have set up a strategic partnership enshrined in the joint Africa–European Union strategy adopted in Lisbon in 2007. This partnership of equals is unique among its kind in terms of its dimension, its strategic scope and its ambitious goals. The partnership has already produced tangible outcomes that are visible in terms of not only conflict prevention and resolution, but also in bridging post-conflict reconstruction and incentives to deal with the underlying causes of strife, particularly in the field of good governance, accountability and sustainable development.

If we take stock of the evolution of Africa in recent years as concerns peace, security and economic development, we have to conclude that the progress made is quite remarkable. Inter-State warfare has declined and economic prospects have steadily increased, despite sluggish world growth and commodity-price volatility. Nevertheless, it is also true that the continent still faces major unresolved challenges. Devastating conflicts endure and the incidence of relapses into conflict remain worryingly high.

One of the main principles that should underpin our common endeavour is that sustaining peace and preventing the recurrence of conflict should not be seen as requiring exogenous solutions to African problems but as a joint effort between African countries and the international community, essential for the full ownership and effective sustainability of the solutions to be found.

As an active member of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, Portugal knows full well the important role that the United Nations peacebuilding architecture plays in supporting peace and stability in African countries and in keeping them on the international agenda. The Senegalese Minister this morning referred to the crucial role that the Economic Community of West African States Mission in Guinea-Bissau is playing in that country and the importance of EU support in this regard. This is a good example of what we can do jointly. But the Guinea-Bissau experience also tells us that the responsibility of African States to provide peacebuilding efforts in their own jurisdictions cannot and should not be diluted.

The United Nations should increasingly engage with the relevant African regional and subregional organizations in a spirit of partnership and complementarity of efforts and resources. We should not only derive profit from the existing structures implemented by the African Peace and Security Architecture but also strive to enhance the capabilities of the regional economic communities and other relevant regional mechanisms, many of which have developed security and early-warning instruments.

In this respect, initiatives such as the joint United Nations–AU framework for enhanced partnership in peace and security or the recent, inaugural direct funding provided by the PBC to the AU Commission to support human rights observation in Burundi may well be the way forward. The principle of African ownership should also direct our attention to the importance of the local and community level in peacebuilding efforts. Academic studies and political practice coincide in identifying the root of lasting peace and social stability in the political foundations and public culture of the society. If local communities and civil society are not centrally engaged in a peacebuilding intervention, it will surely face the risk of bearing the taint of political illegitimacy. No strategy to address the drivers of violent conflict can be disconnected from the general framework of sustainable development. It therefore needs to be framed by the United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1) Goals, in articulation with African blueprints connecting peace, security and development, such as the African Union's Agenda 2063. It also means that greater attention should be paid to the processes of transitional justice in the aftermath of clashes with a strong ethnic or communitarian component. The promotion of healing and reconciliation is key to minimizing the risks of relapse into conflict.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Sierra Leone.

Mr. Minah (Sierra Leone): I congratulate Japan for assuming the presidency of the Security Council for the month of July. I thank Japan for organizing this open debate on peacebuilding in Africa. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General, Cabinet Secretary Amina Mohamed and the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security for their insightful briefings on the initiatives at the continental and regional levels in Africa.

At the outset, let me convey the apologies of the Honourable Samura M. W. Kamara, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, for his absence due to unavoidable circumstances.

On behalf of the President and the Government of Sierra Leone, I would like to register the deep gratitude of my delegation to this Council for the support and assistance rendered to Sierra Leone in sustaining hard-won peace and security. I wish to take this opportunity to also express our profound appreciation to the members of the Sierra Leone Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission through the Chair, Ambassador Marc-André Blanchard of Canada, for his relentless advocacy and for demonstrating strong support in the pursuit of peace, security and stability in Sierra Leone.

Resolution 2282 (2016) and General Assembly resolution 70/262, both unanimously adopted in April, demonstrate quite clearly our collective commitment towards a comprehensive approach to transitional justice and an accountable security sector. Both of these are prerequisites for consolidating peace and reducing poverty, as well as for preventing countries from relapsing into conflict.

In June, we were honoured to receive in Sierra Leone the presence of Ambassador Macharia Kamau, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, and his team on a fact-finding visit. We were heartened by his inspiring words and his comments concerning the remarkable progress Sierra Leone has made, especially in identifying and resolving tensions and threats of potential conflicts. It is a fact that Africa has made tremendous efforts in strengthening its capacity to prevent and resolve conflicts. However, it is imperative that we, the United Nations, maintain the global solidarity required to continue to develop Africa's capacity in preventive diplomacy. We need cooperative and coordinated true partnerships to strengthen capacities in order to ensure that we can respond better to tensions and threats of conflict.

This year marks 14 years since the conflict in Sierra Leone was officially declared over. Since then, with the support of the United Nations, we have made outstanding progress in charting the path for a peaceful, secure, democratic Sierra Leone. We have also reduced our international risk profile as a post-conflict country and, in turn, increased confidence for foreign direct investment.

Sierra Leone has made the transition from a near-failed State on the agenda of the Security Council to a nation that is regarded as a storehouse of lessons on how to successfully move away from war to peace, from despair to hope. Since the closure of the peacekeeping mission, Sierra Leone has made considerable progress in identifying and resolving tensions and threats of potential conflict, in monitoring and promoting human rights, and in consolidating a series of good governance reforms. We have learned through the painful lessons and no longer bear the stigma of being a blood-diamond nation.

Preserving these gains and achieving the country's sustainable development objectives require an unshakable and never-ending commitment to consolidating and empowering our democratic institutions. Sierra Leone remains committed to a strong partnership with the United Nations system and the donor community. We urge the international community to continue to invest in the achievement of our economic development. We ask for support for our poverty-reduction strategy — the Agenda for Prosperity, which is anchored on the New Deal that is championed by the g7+ States.

The Government of Sierra Leone is mindful of the challenges of the twin shocks of the Ebola virus — recently vanquished — and of the shock of the drop in commodity prices. Accordingly, we have maintained, we have harmonized, the poverty-reduction strategy with the promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals and the post-Ebola recovery strategy. On the basis of lessons learned, and the lessons that we continue to learn in Sierra Leone, let me make a few observations.

Sierra Leone is aware of the critical need to ensure fair and transparent institutions that would prevent relapse into conflict and ensure sustainable peace. Institutions such as anticorruption commissions must be consolidated and strengthened with true national ownership and meaningful inclusiveness. An integrated and coordinated approach to peacebuilding is required to ensure the catalytic support of all national processes, sustainable development priorities and economic revitalization.

Sustaining peace must be every citizen's business and should therefore continue to be at the core of the work of the United Nations system. Women must be fully included in all peacebuilding processes. Women, as has been learned, can play an important role in ensuring that peace processes are kept on track and reach their successful conclusions. Women can also play a role in governance and economic recovery. It is quite simple — a nation that empowers its women is a nation that empowers itself.

The capacity of the State should be built to create an enabling environment for the private sector, which would lead to the growth we all want. It is important that all citizens benefit from that growth.

Finally, we also recognize the fact that building the necessary alliances at the subregional and regional levels is important to ensure that transnational criminal activities such as drug trafficking, illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and mercenary activities are curtailed. Sierra Leone fully subscribes to the call contained in the report of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture (see S/2015/490) that better coordination between the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission is desirable. The two institutions must work together in a more focused manner, utilizing their comparative strengths.

The Peacebuilding Fund has proven itself to be an essential instrument of support of critical peacebuilding processes in many post-conflict areas and communities. However, unpredictable, inadequate and fragmented financing for peacebuilding continues to impede the effectiveness and consistency of critical catalytic interventions. We must all support the pledging conference for the Peacebuilding Fund to be held in September and respond positively. The Peacebuilding Commission must also be supported, together with the Peacebuilding Support Office. In particular, the Peacebuilding Support Office should not be left to scramble for funds, resources and personnel. If we believe in the cause of peace, we must invest in the cause of peace.

In conclusion, the Government of Sierra Leone reaffirms its unwavering commitment to promoting sustainable peace and security within its borders and reaffirms its resolve in advocating and promoting peace in the subregion. Sierra Leone and its people have embarked on a journey from fragility to stability. The Government of Sierra Leone believes that with the commitment and support of its partners, Sierra Leone and Africa can develop the necessary institutional resilience to create, embed, deepen and sustain the peace we all desire.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Ethiopia.

Ms. Gaudey (Ethiopia): Allow me to start by thanking you, Mr. President, for organizing this open debate on peacebuilding in Africa in connection with the agenda item "Peacebuilding and sustainable peace". For obvious reasons, this agenda item is critical to the African continent. Our region is one of the most conflict-affected continents in the world and a place where the United Nations deploys the highest percentage of its peacekeepers. Over 70 per cent of the Security Council's agenda items concern Africa and all the countries on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission are African.

My special thanks goes to Her Excellency Ms. Amina Mohammed and His Excellency Mr. Smail Chergui for taking part in this important meeting and for the briefings that they presented so eloquently. My delegation fully endorses those statements. Let me also join others in thanking the Secretary-General for his comprehensive briefing.

It is safe to say that the 2015 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, which led to the adoption on 27 April of the identical General Assembly resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016) on the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, was a significant achievement. The next big challenge is going to be sustaining and further expanding that political momentum and implementing the review's key recommendations, especially those parts that pertain to Africa.

The primary step for translating the words of the resolutions into action involves strong partnerships and coordination. In order to sustain peace in Africa, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) should build stronger links with the African Union and the subregional organizations and enable them to exercise their comparative advantages and play complementary roles in a coherent manner. In that regard, the United Nations has to devise its peacebuilding strategies in a manner that supports and complements Africa's own peacebuilding efforts such as the Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Framework and the

African Solidarity Initiative. The African Union and the United Nations peacebuilding architecture have much to learn and benefit from each other's approaches and experience, and from seeking greater synergy, cooperation and complementarity. At this juncture, we would like to add our support for the proposal made by Mr. Chergui for the Peacebuilding Commission and the African Union Commission to develop a 10-year joint strategy to enhance the peace dividends in Africa.

Secondly, the mindset that equates peacebuilding with a mere post-conflict process has to change for good. Sustaining peace requires the determination to address the root causes of conflicts. It is critical that we adopt comprehensive and integrated approaches that tackle the challenges of peace, security, human rights, good governance and development in a holistic manner. The United Nations engagement with the continent should be more strategic and focus on activities that are essential for sustainable development and poverty eradication. We need to strengthen the links between United Nations peacebuilding efforts, the African Union's Agenda 2063, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1), as they provide blueprints for addressing root causes and drivers of violent conflict.

Whatever we profess will achieve no significant result unless we are ready to implement what we say and address the obstacles facing efforts to ensure predictable and sustained funding for peacebuilding activities. Peacebuilding efforts in Africa have been significantly hindered by the ad hoc nature of financing, which is often directed towards emergency responses. Therefore, addressing the unpredictability and inadequacy of peacebuilding funds and resources is the main task, and our concerted efforts are required to prevent the outbreak, escalation and recurrence of conflict in Africa.

In that regard, we look forward to the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly at its next session on options to increase, restructure and better prioritize funding allocated to peacebuilding activities, including through assessed contributions. We also must look into other means of funding, including through cooperation with multilateral financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the African Development Bank, engagement with the private sector, and maximizing effective domestic resource mobilization capacity.

Let me conclude by urging Member States to sustain and increase the political momentum gained and to make every effort to ensure lasting peace in Africa. Strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union is vital in that regard. Let us, therefore, strategize our peacebuilding efforts in Africa alongside the Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Framework; the African Solidarity Initiative; African Union's goal of Silencing the Guns initiative for a conflict-free Africa by 2020; the African Peace and Security Architecture 2016-2020 Roadmap; the African Union's Agenda 2063; and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Bangladesh.

Mr. Momen (Bangladesh): The Bangladesh delegation wishes to congratulate the Japanese delegation for its successful presidency of the Council this month. We also appreciate this initiative to focus on peacebuilding in Africa and the detailed concept note (S/2016/586, annex) prepared for that purpose.

The Secretary General's Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture gave, in its report last year (S/2015/490), due emphasis to reorienting our thoughts on peacebuilding based on the experience and knowledge gathered through work in Africa over the past decade. It was perhaps only logical that the nearly identical resolutions adopted by the General Assembly (resolution 70/262) and the Security Council (resolution 2282 (2016)) on the peacebuilding architecture review earlier this year devoted particular attention to further streamlining and energizing the United Nations peacebuilding activities in Africa.

Against that backdrop, it is encouraging to follow the good tidings from the African Union (AU) with regard to the further sharpening of its focus on peacebuilding and sustaining peace under the aegis of the African peace and security architecture. In parallel, several initiatives are afoot to accelerate the pace of regional and subregional economic integration for sustainable development in Africa. The convergence of such priorities between the AU and the United Nations makes it particularly good news for peacebuilding, which will gain further momentum, especially in the conflict-affected least-developed xountries presently on the Peacebuilding Commission's (PBC) agenda.

It is important to recognize that the United Nations peacebuilding work in Africa over the past ten years has been critical in reaching consensus on the notion of sustaining peace. The agreed definition of sustaining peace justifiably broadens the traditional and rather restrictive notion of peacebuilding, and underscores the importance of sustained political accompaniment across the entire spectrum of conflicts, including relapses into conflict. We stress that that notion should be duly acknowledged by all principal organs of the United Nations and all other relevant stakeholders in order to give peacebuilding a real chance to deliver on its potential in national, regional and multilateral contexts. In that connection, we wish to reiterate the importance that we attach to five critical issues.

First, the centrality of national ownership and leadership in peacebuilding must be valued and preserved, including in all affected African countries. It is of paramount importance to foster an environment for inclusive peacebuilding in which a diverse set of national actors with legitimate voices and interest have the opportunity to participate and contribute.

Secondly, we feel encouraged to see some positive, ongoing efforts within the United Nations, including on the ground, to break down the silos in sustaining peace. It must remain a constant preoccupation for the PBC, through its convening and advisory roles, to further consolidate such efforts, particularly those aimed at bringing the security and development actors closer together without undermining their respective mandates and competence. The PBC's country-specific configurations have certain good practices in that regard that can be suitably replicated or scaled up across the system.

Thirdly, we welcome the upswing in the PBC's interaction with the relevant regional and subregional organizations, especially in Africa, and its growing focus on regional, cross-cutting issues. The PBC's value-added work can seek to make a difference in addressing various relevant and emerging issues of concern, including the seminal task of institution-building. In that context, we recognize the important work being done by Japan on viable and long-term institution-building in countries emerging from or at risk of conflict.

Fourthly, the PBC's gender strategy and discussions on young people's role in peacebuilding are valuable contributions to promoting the inclusive agenda of sustaining peace. We look forward to the expected adoption of the gender strategy in September, which we believe can be a useful contribution to advancing the women, peace and security agenda, including in Africa.

Fifthly, and perhaps most importantly, the issue of financing for peacebuilding remains a major stumbling block to reaching its potential. We hope the unequivocal emphasis on increased, predictable and sustainable financing in this year's peacebuilding architecture resolutions will help garner sufficient political support towards mobilizing much-needed resources, including for the Peacebuilding Fund. We look forward to creative ideas from the Secretary-General on mobilizing finances, factoring in both assessed and voluntary contributions. The underfunded mechanisms within the African Union also merit the international community's added attention.

Bangladesh remains an ardent believer in peacebuilding and will continue to remain engaged in further strengthening the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, with particular focus on Africa. Our Government has recently taken an initiative, with the assurance of support by the Japanese Government, to establish a peacebuilding centre in Dhaka. We believe the centre will add to regional and international efforts in this regard through substantive research and training activities. We invite interested partners from Africa and elsewhere to come forward in making this initiative a success.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Uganda.

Mr. Nduhuura (Uganda): Uganda's Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Sam Kutesa, sends his sincere apologies for not attending this open debate due to previously planned national obligations that required his presence. However, he is with us in spirit, and I deliver this statement at his behest. Our mission appreciates Japan's convening of this open debate and its promotion of peace and development in Africa. As a country located between the Great Lakes and the Horn of Africa regions, Uganda fully appreciates the theme of this open debate.

Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations mandates the Organization to maintain international peace and security and, inter alia, to take collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to peace. Indeed, the Security Council is mandated to follow up on the latter part of the Article, and it is doing so by hosting this open debate, as we are witnessing today. Today's global turmoil could lead one to conclude that the world is experiencing its most unstable period.

However, the actual reality is that the overwhelming majority of national and international relations are being conducted peacefully. For instance, there are more democracies in the world now than there have been at any other time in human history, it is wealthier, and there are more educated people living longer lives. Crucially, enabling social, political and economic architectures and infrastructures exist in those countries and regions where peace prevails. For instance, in North America, there has been no war for the last century because its countries have evolved democratic, inclusive and competitive political systems and trade freely among themselves.

Critically, the United States, as a super-Power, guarantees North America's security. Similarly, in Europe, the creation of the United Nations — coupled with the victorious Allied Powers' avoidance of the vindictive approach to Germany adopted after the First World War — consolidated the peace. Other contributing factors include the balance of terror between the world's two main military powers, the benefits derived from the Marshall Plan that reconstructed Western Europe, and the creation of the present-day European Union, which within the context of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, has enabled European countries to access each other's markets without resorting to war, as was the case in the past.

Even in today's Africa, our reality is not all characterized by doom and gloom because, for the first time in many years, with the exception of Western Sahara, the people of Africa have achieved their self-determination, as required by the Charter of the United Nations. That is a prerequisite for sustained peace. Today, unlike in the 1960s, when military coups were the order of the day, most African countries are democracies, meeting another vital requirement of sustained peace.

Regional integration is another important dimension. Africa has some of the most vibrant regional integration entities on this planet, such as the East African Community, the Economic Community of West African States and the Southern African Development Community. These entities structurally entrench peace and development. Even socially and economically, Africa is on the rise. Recent statistics from the African Development Bank indicate that the continent currently raises up to $450 billion annually as domestic revenue, while external funding amounts to approximately $50 billion annually. This positive trend points towards sustained peace on this continent.

One instance of the continent's sustained economic transformation and development is the investment by the Dangote Group, an African private sector company, of $15 billion in the construction of one of the biggest oil refineries in the world in Nigeria. The aim is to address fuel shortages in Nigeria and West Africa. The refinery will be refining up to 650,000 barrels of crude oil a day, and it is expected to create approximately 100,000 much-needed jobs.

This is not a stand-alone African development. With funding from China's Export-Import Bank, a standard gauge railway line is being built to connect East Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and South Sudan to the sea and world trade, at an estimated cost of $3.8 billion. Uganda and Tanzania will soon begin construction of a 1,400-kilometre oil pipeline from Uganda's oil belt in Hoima to the Indian Ocean port of Tanga, in collaboration with the French Total oil company. The investment amounts to at least $4 billion.

Within this exceedingly vibrant region, this is not all. Unfortunately, time does not permit me to discuss the other stories from the region and elsewhere in southern Africa and other parts of the continent. However, the point to note is that Africa is on the move and full of promise for its people and the world. Cases of persistent conflict on the continent have not been been due to inexplicably bad luck. Their causes can be scientifically explained and ideas and efforts can be contributed to the process of finding and implementing a solution.

For instance, colonialism, the arbitrary partition of Africa, internal militarism and Cold War rivalry and manipulation were key in precipitating the collapse of the Somali State. Furthermore, we all vividly recall the causes of the current crisis in Libya. Similarly, the conflict in South Sudan is no accident. Colonial and post-colonial marginalization over the last century before its self-determination firmly laid the foundation for this tragedy. If we are to resolve the conflicts that exist in Africa, we do not need to reinvent the wheel. Let us draw from the best practices elsewhere and adopt and adapt them accordingly in South Sudan, the Central African Republic, Libya and Somalia.

There will be a need to avoid quick-fix solutions, as these may do more harm than good in the final analysis. The Security Council should apply a consultative approach to resolving the crises in these countries, for in order to achieve durable peace, we must craft legitimate political solutions. Consultations must therefore have the support of the legitimate leaders of these countries. We need to create armed forces that are effective and yet fully subordinate to the legimitate civil authorities.

These countries have a rich natural endowment. The international community should enable their citizens to benefit from those resources through policies that promote economic productivity and social and economic transformation. Africa is an emerging and vibrant market with plenty of potential to offer its people and the world community. The international community should follow the lead of China, the Obama Administration in the United States, Japan and other economies by investing in the interesting economic prospects we have in Africa, for our mutual benefit. Doing so will consolidate sustained peace on this continent and in the world.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Turkey.

Mr. Begeç (Turkey): Like many of my predecessors, Mr. President, I thank you for organizing today's meeting.

The impact of global challenges to Africa has been profound due to the lack of institutional capacity and resilience in many parts of the continent. The challenges are of a transnational character, so our response needs to be holistic. With this understanding, the United Nations has acknowledged, through General Assembly resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016) of 27 April, the importance of peacebuilding efforts at the national, regional and international levels and of addressing all phases of the conflict cycle. I would like to stress the necessity of implementing these resolutions with a special emphasis on Africa.

Turkey provides personnel and contributes financially to seven of the existing nine peacekeeping missions in Africa and takes part in five out of six country-specific configurations of the Peacebuilding Commission. In addition, since 2011, we have co-chaired the Horn of Africa Working Group within the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum with the European Union. Since 2008, Turkey has been providing financial assistance to the African Union for projects in the areas of trade and investment, peace and security, rural development, empowerment of young people and women, infrastructure and transportation. In this framework, we allocated $300,000 last year to support the Eastern African Standby Force and the African Union Peace and Security Architecture.

Regional endeavours within Africa should be encouraged and supported by the international community. The decision by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union on 18 July in relation to the African Union's peace and security budget constitutes an important step in this regard. This is also in line with the African Union's principle of "African solutions to African problems".

I would also like to share a few examples of Turkey's concrete action in favour of peacebuilding in Africa. Turkey hosted the National Independent Electoral Commission of Somalia in 2015 for an event that featured experience-sharing and capacity-building. The delegation also had the chance to observe the Turkish general elections of November 2015. In addition, Turkey provided financial assistance to the National Election Commission of Burkina Faso in 2015.

We have also been providing training to the military personnel of African countries. By the end of 2014, some 2,202 African personnel received training in Turkey. The number of trainees in these programmes has increased significantly in recent years, reaching to 600 in 2015. The Turkish International Cooperation and Coordination Agency established a vocational training centre in the Sudan, which graduates over 300 technicians every year. Similar centres are planned for other African countries. We also share knowledge on protecting and promoting small- and medium-size enterprises with least developed countries in Africa. In this regard, a unit of the Turkish Small and Medium Business Development and Support Administration organizes training programmes and field trips to Turkey for its African counterparts.

The Turkish-Sudanese Hospital with a 150-bed capacity was opened in 2014 in Nyala, Darfur, and the Turkey-Somalia Hospital with a 200-bed capacity was opened in January 2015 in Mogadishu. These training and research hospitals are jointly run with the local authorities. The Turkish Ministry of Health has initiated a project for creating a nationwide patient database in 20 sub-Saharan African countries. The $3-million project, to be implemented over the next four years, consists of establishing the system, training the health personnel and providing consultancy services. Furthermore, Turkey has been providing a substantial number of higher education scholarships to African students. There are currently 5,500 students in higher education and 116 visiting professors from African countries currently residing in Turkey.

International efforts in peacebuilding in Africa should be scaled up since some countries of the continent will have elections this year and in 2017. During this delicate process, the international community cannot allow the recurrence of conflicts and humanitarian tragedies. Turkey will continue to assist Africa in its efforts to overcome the existing difficulties.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Cyprus.

Mr. Emiliou (Cyprus): Cyprus aligns itself with the statement made by the observer of the European Union. However, I would like to deliver the following remarks in my national capacity as the representative of Cyprus.

First of all, I wish to thank the Japanese presidency of the Security Council for convening today's important meeting and for circulating a very useful concept note (S/2016/586, annex).

Africa continues to be the priority with respect to peacebuilding activities. Nonetheless, it is very difficult indeed to talk about peacebuilding in Africa as a unitary object, due to the diverse challenges with which the continent is faced. While some States are peaceful, secure and growing, others are in the process of institution- and capacity-building following their emergence from long conflicts, whereas many others remain plagued by various problems such as violent extremism, conflict, poverty and inequality.

There is no simple or single answer to these challenges. Based on its own experience, Cyprus firmly believes that nationally-owned processes provide the best responses to existing and potential crises, as national ownership can reflect the interests and needs of local populations. Inclusiveness is also key to advancing national peacebuilding processes and objectives in order to ensure that the needs of all segments of society are taken into account, and we stress that civil society can play an important role in advancing efforts to sustain peace.

In this regard, it is crucial for the international community to support multidimensional national and regional strategies, addressing political, security and developmental aspects. Priority should be given to the regional dimension of building sustainable peace, as well as providing a platform to promote the perspectives of regional actors, most notably the African Union. Cyprus welcomes the call made in both recent United Nations review processes on peacebuilding and peacekeeping for greater United Nations cooperation with the African Union, and we firmly believe that such enhanced cooperation could significantly contribute to the prevention of the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict.

As peacebuilding encompasses a wide range of political, development and human rights programmes and mechanisms, it is of critical importance for the international community to assist Africa in its efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1) and promote poverty eradication, social development, national reconciliation and unity through inclusive dialogue and mediation, accountability, good governance, democracy, accountable institutions, gender equality and respect for and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Last but not least, we underscore the importance of African women's enhanced participation in all efforts aimed at maintaining and promoting peace and security and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution and peacebuilding. It is equally significant to consider ways to increase meaningful and inclusive participation of African young people in peacebuilding efforts.

I thank you once again, Mr. President, for this important and timely initiative that today's meeting represents, which Cyprus fully supports, both in its national capacity and through its membership in the European Union. Supporting peacebuilding in Africa is a large part of our collective efforts to sustain peace and security and promote development and prosperity for the benefit of all of us.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Morocco.

Mr. Hilale (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): I would like to warmly congratulate Japan both for the choice of this highly important topic, which offers us today the opportunity to respond to the substantial question of how institution-building can consolidate peace and prevent a relapse into conflict, and for its successful chairmanship of the Peacebuilding Commission's Working Group on Lessons Learned.

It is precisely one of the first lessons learned that good governance and strong and accountable institutions are essential for easing tensions, reducing poverty and having a positive impact on development. The development of a democratic process based on strong democratic institutions whose workings function properly, as well as on sound knowledge and respect for the rule of law and human rights, is a key determinant of the failure or success of any post-conflict State-building project after a conflict or any political transition. Strong institutions are the basis of the restoration of trust between the State and the citizen, which is the sine qua non for anchoring the country in lasting peace. Citizens' confidence in the ability of the State to defend the common good is an equally fundamental prerequisite for the establishment of the rule of law, which is not only an instrument of Government, but a principle to which all society, including the Government, is bound to advance democracy.

There is no State without authority, workers, politicians or civil servants. If the State wants to regain the trust of citizens, it must be accessible and near at hand. It should be able to offer justice and to be the sovereign guarantor of social cohesion and guardian of the integrity of its territory. As a multidimensional process that is long-term and requires huge financial and human investments, institution-building in the framework of peacebuilding needss the sustained mobilization of all the political forces of the country concerned, regional and subregional partners, international financial institutions and the international community as a whole.

In the African context, especially in countries emerging from conflict, where almost everything needs to be rebuilt, institution-building is much more like a State construction project than one of the reform and consolidation of existing State structures. This demonstrates the vast scope of the task that faces a fragile African country and all stakeholders involved in peacebuilding.

Beyond the re-establishment of state authority and the implementation of efficient and rational reforms of the security and justice sectors, the success of any institution-building project makes it essential to take the following elements into account.

The effectiveness and sustainability of institutional capacity-building is directly related to the institutionalization of the role of capacity-management at the national level. A body consisting of representatives of various sectors and spanning all areas concerned can support, advise and monitor institutional capacity-building processes. Legislation based on the promotion of good governance and human rights would result in the development of policies respectful of human rights by the State, civil society and the population.

Transparency in the development and implementation of public policies requires the public to have access to social services and to demand that their rights be protected. Facilitating public access to information can in some cases be an effective strategy to improve the state of public spending and protect economic and social rights. Efforts to educate the public and heighten its understanding of political, economic and social issues provoke debate, promote informed social dialogue and strengthen awareness among citizens of their rights.

Strengthening the obligation of public officials to account for their actions through sound accountability legislation allows a balance to be struck among institutional power systems and creates mechanisms providing redress to victims of human rights violations. Efforts to protect and promote human rights are essential elements of the transition from conflict to peace. Governance reforms that promote human rights can be implemented even in the midst of insecurity and conflict, as well as during transition periods that follow political oppression and conflict.

Good governance encourages public participation in Government, allows civil society to be actively involved in policy development and the interests of society to be well represented in the institutional process. Policies that respect cultural diversity and minorities contribute to the resolution of social conflicts, ease tensions and help to lower the barriers of inequality, poverty and marginalization.

Public participation in local development must be institutionalized and given a central role in designing and implementing genuine development policies in the context of a participatory local administration. The political representation of women in political institutions and processes must be strengthened so that they are able to defend the adoption of laws and initiatives to their benefit.

Respect for human rights must be enhanced and conflicts managed through a participatory, inclusive and transparent constitutional process that promotes public confidence in the new constitution. Allowing ordinary citizens to express their opinion on constitutional issues helps the development of a legitimate document that would be owned by the people. The political participation of indigenous communities must be promoted by protecting their right to define and establish their own public policy priorities.

Governance, transparency and accountability in the management of public and private resources must be strengthened because there can be no satisfactory development where corruption is rife. Unproductive public expenditure, and in particular excessive military expenditure, must be abandoned so asto allow the increase in the social spending that Africa badly needs. It is essential to stabilize macroeconomic stability so as to sustainably increase the private savings and investment necessary to establish a liberal and stable economic and regulatory environment.

Debt relief is directly linked to the fight against poverty. When debt burdens the national budget, it undermines the ability of a Government to provide its citizens with the basic social services. Aware of the magnitude of this constraint for African economies, His Majesty King Mohammed VI decided in 2000 to cancel the debts of African least-developed countries to Morocco and to lift all tariffs imposed on products imported from those countries. This decision was based on Morocco's belief in the need to uphold and enshrine the spirit of solidarity and on its African identity.

The efforts of countries in fragile situations to develop and implement national plans and reforms to strengthen their institutions and entrench the rule of law should be encouraged, notably by providing them with appropriate financial assistance. The merit of the identical resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council on peacebuilding is that they highlight the inadequacy of the assistance mobilized by the international community with respect to the real needs of vulnerable country. It up to us to give substance to the ambitious project of implementing the recommendations of the review. Peace in Africa and around the world depends on it.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.

United Nations
S/PV.7751

Security Council

Seventy-first year

Provisional

7751st meeting

Friday, 29 July 2016, 5 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Bessho	(Japan)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Gaspar Martins
	China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
	Egypt	Mr. Aboulatta
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Malaysia	Mrs. Adnin
	New Zealand	Mr. Taula
	Russian Federation	Mr. Safronkov
	Senegal	Mr. Seck
	Spain	Mr. González de Linares Palou
	Ukraine	Mr. Yelchenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Hickey
	United States of America	Ms. Power
	Uruguay	Mr. Rosselli
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Ramírez Carreño

Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General on South Sudan (S/2016/552)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. *Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

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The meeting was called to order at 5.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General on South Sudan (S/2016/552)

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2016/660, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by the United States of America.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2016/552, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on South Sudan.

I now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements before the voting.

Ms. Power (United States of America): The renewal of violence in South Sudan earlier this month was horrifying, but sadly not unexpected. It was horrifying because, as we all know, in only a few days 300 men, women and children were reportedly killed, tens of thousands were displaced, and 4,500 metric tons of humanitarian aid — food that would have fed 220,000 people in dire need for a full month — was looted. Yet the renewal of the conflict in Juba was also foreseeable because of the inability of South Sudan's leaders to work together and put the interests of the people of South Sudan ahead of their own.

The Heads of State and Government of Intergovernmental Authority on Development Plus, South Sudan's neighbours and their partners, are now calling for the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) to have an enhanced capacity — particularly in Juba — in response to the deteriorating security situation there. The African Union Assembly has endorsed this decision; the Peace and Security Council has as well. And they are all recommending that regional forces contribute to UNMISS. We all need to support them. The United States believes that the region's proposal offers a basis for re-establishing a secure environment in Juba, which is critical if the parties are to make progress on implementing the peace agreement they signed onto almost a year ago, as well as to ensure the unfettered delivery of humanitarian aid to those who are at grave risk of famine.

Of course, the proposal — as many Council members have noted — merits thorough review, and translating its purpose into a mandate for UNMISS must be done with great care and in consultation with the troop-contributing countries and all members of the Council. We have to get this right. But it also must be done with great urgency. Let us not be fooled into believing that time is on our side. It is not. Events in recent weeks have demonstrated how quickly violence can reignite and how devastating are the human consequences when it does. I want to stress this also for Council members here today — we have just received very disturbing reports of significant violence in the Equatorias in South Sudan, and all of us need to be on alert, I think, this weekend, because events could spiral rapidly out of control yet again. Every report of a spike in violence, of course, costs human lives and leaves an indelible and searing mark on those affected by it.

Just to give one example, on 18 July a young woman was reportedly grabbed only meters away from the gate to the United Nations camp in Juba where she had taken shelter after being displaced by the violence. She told a reporter from *The Guardian* that the five men in uniform gave her a choice. She said, "I could choose the one who would rape me, or they all would". The woman said, "I begged them to kill me instead". Unfortunataely, she told the reporter, the men dragged her to the side of the road and raped her in broad daylight. UNMISS as it is currently configured, has proven unable — and in some cases unwilling — to prevent horrors like this. We must work together urgently to fix that.

No one has more of a stake in finding a way out of this conflict and in bringing justice than the people of South Sudan, who have already endured such tremendous suffering in the short history of their nation, and of course their neighbours, who have been clear about what this situation requires. Let us be motivated by the pain of South Sudanese civilians and by the initiative shown by the region, and let us work with a tremendous sense of urgency and will to protect civilians and create the conditions critical to bringing an end to this ghastly conflict in South Sudan.

The draft resolution before us offers additional time for the regional leaders to meet and engage the Government of South Sudan, and it offers us additional time to find a way forward before we proceed with mandating this new force within UNMISS.

The President: The Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Angola, China, Egypt, France, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Senegal, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

The President: The draft resolution received 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2302 (2016).

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements following the voting.

Mr. Aboulatta (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): My delegation voted in favour of resolution 2302 (2016), extending the mandate of the United Mission in South Sudan, which was due to expire at the end of this month. Given the Mission's critical role, I take this opportunity to thank its personnel for their actions to protect civilians, sometimes at risk of their own lives.

The rapid response to the request made by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) reflects the resolve of African countries to end the conflict in South Sudan and the suffering of its people as soon as possible. The proposals put forward are far-reaching and we hope that they will be implemented. The proposals can best be implemented by keeping the divergences of positions and the principles of peacekeeping in mind.

Following the adoption of the resolution today, we now have 12 days to achieve consensus on renewing the Mission mandate. We should have liked to be given more time to consider our options for implementing the proposals before us. We need to keep the suffering of the people of South Sudan closer to heart and prevent the violence from spiralling out of control. Peace in South Sudan will prevail only if the African Union and the Security Council join forces to settle the conflict. Trust between the factions must also be rebuilt and the root causes of the conflict analysed. Any other solution would be a short-term placebo.

We hope that next week's Igad Summit will identify as soon as possible a solution to the situation that takes the various positions into account so that the suffering of the South Sudanese people can come to an end.

Mr. Liu Jieyi (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China endorses the extension of the mandate of the United Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). China is closely following developments in the situation in South Sudan and hopes that the parties there will effectively implement the agreement on the resolution of the conflict in their country and honour their commitment to the ceasefire so as to restore stability and pursue the development of their country.

China attaches great importance to the efforts of the countries of the region to achieve peace and development in South Sudan, and supports the role of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development as the main path to that end. The urgent task before us now is to find the best way to achieve peace in South Sudan based on the political and security situation there and respect for the country's sovereignty.

In the recent attack on UNMISS, two Chinese peacekeepers lost their precious lives for the cause of peace. China will continue to unswervingly support United Nations peacekeeping operations and to increase its contributions to the cause of international peace. We appreciate the positive role played by UNMISS in advancing the peace process in South Sudan. China supports the ongoing implementation of the UNMISS mandate.

When discussing the adjustment of mandates, the Security Council should step up its consultations with and heed the opinions of the countries concerned and of those of the region. The Mission should strengthen capacity-building in the relevant areas so as to effectively protect the security and safety of peacekeepers. China is ready to engage with the relevant parties on the issue.

Mr. Rosselli (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation should like once again to call the Security Council's attention to the procedures and time frames in which draft resolutions are circulated to the Council for its consideration. Resolution 2302 (2016), of which my delegation voted in favour, was circulated by the penholder for the first time on the evening of Wednesday 27 July, less than 48 hours ago, and issued in blue yesterday afternoon, fewer than 24 hours later, with no silence procedure and without taking the comments of several members of the Council into account.

Just a few hours ago, a new version was circulated in blue, in which the date of the mandate expiration had been changed from Monday 8 August to Friday to 12 August. It was our understanding that the proposal for a technical extension until 12 August, with the intention of allowing further time for negotiating a new draft resolution, implies a potentially significant change in the mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan.

We believe that the draft text was considered only by a small and highly select number of Security members. It would be a mistake if we were to follow such a procedure in the future. We have noted in prior discussions that this procedure puts us in the difficult position of having either to accept, abstain on or vote against a fait accompli. We do not want to be faced with those three options in any future recurrence of this situation.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.

United Nations

S/PV.7752

Security Council

Seventy-first year

Provisional

7752nd meeting

Friday, 29 July 2016, 5.20 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Bessho	(Japan)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Gaspar Martins
	China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
	Egypt	Mr. Aboulatta
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Malaysia	Mrs. Adnin
	New Zealand	Mr. Taula
	Russian Federation	Mr. Safronkov
	Senegal	Mr. Seck
	Spain	Mr. González de Linares Palou
	Ukraine	Mr. Yelchenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Hickey
	United States of America	Ms. Power
	Uruguay	Mr. Rosselli
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Ramírez Carreño

Agenda

The situation in Burundi

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The meeting was called to order at 5.20 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Burundi

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2016/659, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by France.

The Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

France, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Senegal, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay

Abstaining:

Angola, China, Egypt, Venezuela

The President: There were 11 votes in favour, none against and 4 abstentions. The draft resolution has been adopted as resolution 2303 (2016).

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements following the voting.

Mr. Delattre (France) (*spoke in French*): I wish to take this opportunity to convey the gravity of the occasion today as we have just adopted resolution 2303 (2016), on Burundi. After intense negotiations, today the Security Council has taken an important decision that marks a potentially decisive step on the path to peace in Burundi. I wish to thank all my colleagues and their teams for the great amount of work that we done together in a consistently constructive spirit.

In adopting resolution 2303 (2016), the Security Council is pursuing two main goals. The first is to support an authentic inter-Burundian dialogue. The Security Council strongly reaffirms that only a peaceful dialogue among all Burundians will allow Burundi to restore lasting peace. To that end, the Security Council is renewing its full support to the facilitator of the inter-Burundian dialogue, former President Benjamin Mkapa. The Security Council urges the Burundian parties to commit without delay to the process led by Mr. Mkapa in a constructive and sincere manner. Next week's visits to Tanzania and Kenya by the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Jean-Marc Ayrault, will provide the opportunity to renew that support.

The Security Council also reiterating its support for the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General, Mr. Benomar, so that he can support the work of the facilitators. The dialogue must be based in no uncertain terms on the Arusha Peace Agreement and respect it in letter and spirit. More than ever, the Arusha Peace Agreement is the compass that must guide stakeholders in Burundi and the international community.

The second goal is to end the violence and calm tensions in Burundi. Let us be clear — as the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights has underscored, acts of violence persist in Burundi, accompanied by an increase of serious violations of fundamental rights and freedoms. The number of cases of forced disappearances and torture in detention centres, the location of which is often kept secret, is even on the rise. Targeted acts of political violence continue and only increase tensions. Last month, the arrest of 70 young people for having drawn caricatures of the President of Burundi in their school notebooks was a very troubling indication of that.

In order to contribute to calming the situation, the Security Council expresses its readiness to adopt sanctions against all those who threaten peace and security in Burundi. Moreover, the Security Council urges the Government of Burundi to finally allow the deployment of 200 observers of the African Union in compliance with the commitments undertaken last February to the delegation of the Heads of State of the African Union. As of today, fewer than 50 of those observers are deployed in Burundi.

Finally, based on a proposal by the Secretary-General, the Security Council has decided to deploy 228 United Nations police officers to monitor the security and human rights situations. With the rise in violence and tensions, the Security Council must be have all ears and eyes on the ground to alert, prevent and avoid the worst in Burundi. By helping to reassure the people, the police presence should assist in dissipating tensions, thereby facilitating a peaceful dialogue. It will also help to alert the Council if the situation further deteriorates.

In its history, Burundi has already experienced tragic massacres wherein ethnicity was exploited for the worst ends. Today, the Security Council is carrying out its responsibility so that history does not repeat itself. Within the Chamber, we often stress the importance of acting in a timely manner in order to prevent conflicts. That is exactly what the Security Council is doing through the adoption of resolution 2303 (2016). Today, we are collectively carrying out a decisive act of preventive diplomacy faced with the threat of tragedy, requiring us to continue to work tirelessly, despite our differences and with Burundi, to pave the necessary way to peace.

We will never forget the Rwandan genocide of 1994. We will never forget our collective responsibility in connection with what happened in Rwanda. We promised ourselves: "Never again". By adopting resolution 2303 (2016), the Security Council is learning from the past. By adopting resolution 2303 (2016), the Security Council is acting in order to prevent Burundi from reliving the worst possible scenario. By adopting resolution 2303 (2016), the Security Council has heeded the desire of the people of Burundi to finally resume the road to peace. Today, while we are not at the end of the road, we have taken a major step and sent a loud message together.

Mr. Aboulatta (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): Egypt shares the concern of the other members of the Security Council with regard to the current situation in Burundi. Egypt is fully convinced that the Security Council must play an active and effective role, in cooperation with African and regional partners, in supporting Burundi's efforts to restore peace and stability and find solutions to its challenges through serious and genuine national dialogue.

Egypt sought to maintain a positive approach based on cooperation vis-a-vis the Council and its discussion on Burundi. We sought to preserve the unity of the Council so that we could send a strong message reflecting the desire of the international community to see stability restored in Burundi. Egypt has consistently upheld that the deployment of a police contingent in Burundi should take Burundi's national position into account and be the subject of consensus among the members of the Security Council. It should also enjoy Burundi's support as as to ensure that Burundi's effective implementation of the resolution, thereby allowing a constructive interaction between Burundi and the United Nations.

Despite divergent points of view, Egypt and other like-minded Council members have taken a positive and constructive approach to this issue that has led to a result that takes the concerns of all members of the Council into account. All these efforts notwithstanding, the resolution adopted today does not address our concerns, but rather imposes an option that Burundian authorities do not support. Moreover, the resolution selectively addresses the Secretary-General's recommendations regarding the mandate of the police contingent, which could result in Burundi's refusal to cooperate in the implementation of the resolution and could challenge the credibility of the Security Council. We even fear that the current situation could have a negative effect on the African Union's efforts and on the mediation efforts of the East African Community.

My delegation therefore abstained in the voting on today's resolution on the police contingent, as the current language does not take our concerns into account and does not fully represent the views of all members of the Council. It may also cost the international community the opportunity of cooperating with Burundi on the deployment of the police contingent. This is a legitimate concern, because the resolution has been adopted outside of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, and is consistent with the principles of peacekeeping operations calling for the participation and agreement of host countries.

Finally, I reaffirm Egypt's commitment to continue striving for positive and constructive cooperation between the Security Council and Burundi with a view to enhancing the role of the United Nations and helping to restore stability to Burundi and to overcome existing challenges.

Mr. Gaspar Martins (Angola): Mr. President, we welcome your efforts in convening this meeting late on a Friday afternoon, which means that it is important for the Council to deliberate on this question.

Angola abstained in the voting on resolution 2303 (2015) for the following reasons.

First, we welcome the active engagement of the African Union in Burundi and the consent of the Burundian authorities to the deployment of 200 human rights observers and military experts. We call for their rapid deployment, for the cooperation of the Government of Burundi, and for international support for the attainment of this objective.

Secondly, we deem the coordination and cooperation with the Burundian Government to be essential to guaranteeing an engagement in the country that will result in helping Burundi to return to peace. Therefore, we are of the view that the establishment of the United Nations police component in Burundi and its progressive deployment should be done in consultation with the Government of Burundi.

Thirdly, the resolution should make a tangible contribution to urgently needed political dialogue, which must be pursued fundamentally by strengthening cooperation among the Government of Burundi, the mediator, the East African Community facilitator and the Special Advisers on the Responsibility to Protect and on the Prevention of Genocide.

Fourthly, during the negotiations, in a joint effort with other members of the Council, Angola made good-faith proposals that were aimed at a widely accepted compromise. We regret that these proposals have not been sufficiently taken into account. We feel that with regard to Burundi, the Council must send a clear and united message. This clarity, unfortunately, has not seemed to persist or prevail, particularly in connection with the deployment of the police contingent.

Angola stands ready to continue to engage with all members of the Council towards the achievement of peace and security in Burundi and in the region at large.

Mr. Liu Jieyi (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China commends the positive initiatives taken by the Burundian Government to maintain national stability and promote internal reconciliation, and urges the parties in Burundi to actively participate in the political dialogue and resolve their differences peacefully through dialogue and consultation. China supports the mediation efforts of regional and subregional organizations, such as the African Union and the East African Community, on the question of Burundi, and the United Nations ongoing constructive role in seeking a political solution to the question.

United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions should be deployed on the basis of full consultation with the country concerned and follow the principle of the consent of the host country. That is the only way to ensure that peacekeeping operations and special political missions can deploy smoothly and implement their mandate.

On the question of sending United Nations police to Burundi, it is necessary to respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Burundi and engage in full consultations with its Government in an effort to reach a Burundi-led settlement that enjoys the consent of all concerned parties. Resolution 2303 (2015) does not address the aforementioned principles. China was therefore compelled to abstain in the voting.

China urges the parties concerned to proceed with caution on the question of sending police to Burundi, to consult fully with the Burundian Government and to reach an agreement in advance of their deployment.

Mr. Rosselli (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): Uruguay participated actively in the drafting of resolution 2303 (2015) and commends the dedication and patient work of the penholder in the drafting of the text, which we have just adopted. In drafting the text, we were fundamentally motivated by the urgent need to address the grave humanitarian situation in Burundi. Reliable sources, such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNICEF and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, have denounced the persistence of and, in some cases, the increase in human rights violations in Burundi — cases of torture, forced disappearances, sexual violence, arbitrary detention and restrictions on fundamental freedoms. Against this critical backdrop, measures set forth in the resolution, including the sending of a police officers component, could help provide relief from the extreme vulnerability that the people of Burundi are experiencing, which requires immediate attention.

The resolution authorizes the deployment of a maximum of 228 police officers. In Uruguay's judgment, the rate at which they are deployed should be coordinated with the authorities of Burundi in order to achieve the successful implementation of the resolution we have adopted today.

Mr. Hickey (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom welcomes the adoption today of resolution 2303 (2016) establishing a United Nations police component in Burundi. We extend our thanks to the France for its patient efforts to try to find consensus on the resolution. We regret that not every member of the Security Council was able to support the resolution today. A united Council would have sent a clear message to the Government of Burundi to accept the police deployment.

In the face of the worrying state of affairs in Burundi, the Security Council had a clear duty to act. The situation on the ground remains fragile, with a very real potential for a spiral into mass violence. The United Nations police component, working with human rights observers from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, can help stop that spiral. Together, they can prevent the further deterioration of the security situation and help decrease human rights violations. In doing so, the deployment will help create an environment conducive to political dialogue, a goal that all of us share.

But we need to recognize that today's resolution is just a starting point. We must insist on the full deployment of the 228 police officers authorized by the resolution, and we need to be clear that this deployment is designed to monitor the actions of all parties in Burundi, protect all Burundians and support a political solution to the crisis. But to find this solution, the Government must commit to and participate in good faith in a genuine and inclusive political dialogue. We, the Security Council, cannot let up in our calls for this dialogue. We must ensure that the eyes of the Council remain on Burundi.

Mr. González de Linares Palou (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): As we said at yesterday's open debate at the ministerial level (see S/PV.7750), in our opinion we have failed to help the Burundians build a lasting peace and have been unable to show a united front in conveying to the Government of Burundi the urgent need to find a way out of this crisis. We did not achieve consensus, but the Council was nevertheless able to adopt a decision — resolution 2303 (2016) — which in and of itself is already tremendously important.

What do we see in this resolution? We see three things. First, we are sending a message to the country that the rounds of dialogue should continue, in order to ensure the protection of civilians and the general population so that violations of human rights cease. Secondly, with resolution 2303 (2016), we are trying to convey our wish that there be increased coordination of and coherence in all the various efforts that are currently being undertaken. Thirdly, and finally, with the resolution, we are making a clear call to the leaders of the region to get involved more substantially and effectively in order to resolve the crisis.

In the 1990s, as we mentioned, we were not able to avoid catastrophe, but I hope that history has given us a second chance to try to avoid one now.

Mrs. Adnin (Malaysia): Eighteen months ago, with the closure of the United Nations Office in Burundi previously authorized by resolution 2137 (2014), there was immense hope that Burundi had turned the final page on a tragic chapter in its history. At that point, Burundi seemed poised to move out of the post-conflict phase into a period that would consolidate the political, economic and social gains built on the principles of the Arusha Agreement as well as those enshrined in the country's Constitution. Therefore the political and security turmoil in Burundi that arose in 2015 and which persists today is deeply distressing. Instead of moving forward, there are legitimate fears that the country is being drawn back to its dark days of violent conflict.

The Security Council has often been faulted in the past for not acting quickly enough in response to crises. Too often, the Council reacts only after a situation has significantly deteriorated to the point where it cannot be ignored. In supporting resolution 2303 (2016) adopted today, Malaysia believes that the Council's decision represents a novel approach to conflict prevention in a region with a long history of conflict as the status quo. This time we are not waiting for the worst to occur before taking action.

We strongly condemn all acts of violence that have occurred in the course of the protracted political crisis in Burundi. Violence will never result in a permanent solution. Rather, genuine, credible and inclusive political dialogue is the only viable path to resolving the crisis in Burundi in a peaceful manner.

We commend and support the leading role played by regional organizations, including the African Union and the East African Community, to mediate dialogue and restore stability in Burundi. We believe that the combination of a United Nations police component to monitor the security situation on the ground and strengthen United Nations capacity for human rights monitoring mandated by resolution 2303 (2016) can help create an environment conducive to supporting a viable political dialogue.

We wish to make it clear that the consent and cooperation of the Government of Burundi is fundamental for the successful implementation of the resolution. Malaysia reaffirms the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and unity of Burundi, a principle that is clearly reflected in the text and stresses the primary role of the Government in upholding the security and human rights of its people. In this regard, we call for the Government of Burundi to extend its cooperation and for the United Nations to consult closely with the Burundian national authorities for the swift deployment of the United Nations police component. We appeal to the Burundian Government to take this opportunity to demonstrate its sincere commitment to resolving the crisis peacefully and give priority to the interests, security and welfare of the Burundian people.

In conclusion, we wish to commend France, the penholder, for setting the tone for constructive negotiations on the draft text. While we regret that the resolution could not be adopted by full consensus, we support the resolution and its ultimate aim — to bring Burundi back to a path of lasting peace and stability. We fervently hope that the Government of Burundi and the international community greet this resolution in the same spirit we do.

Mr. Ramírez Carreño (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela abstained in the voting on resolution 2303 (2016), on the deployment of an police officers component in Burundi for a year for substantive reasons that blocked the consensus that is needed for a subject as vital as the principle of obtaining the consent for such action from the concerned State. It is clear to us that there has been a lack of flexibility in this process, which has made it difficult to find a consensus position. Today's voting reflects the prevalance of divergent positions in the Council with regard to managing the United Nations relationship with the State of Burundi.

The resolution does not address one essential factor for the deployment of the police component — the consent of the Government of Burundi, the country's principal institutional actor. It is not possible to implement the mandate of a document of the Security Council and the United Nations that does not reflect this principle. It is a text that will violate the country's sovereignty, international law and the Charter of United Nations, and it sets a negative precedent for the international community. This is even more true because the resolution reaffirms the Council's commitment to the political independence of Burundi. By not including a specific and clear reference to the consultations that should be held with the Burundian Government for the deployment of the police component, the resolution undermines its own provisions. Instead of specifically mentioning that element, it contains ambiguous language that sets a dangerous precedent for the future negotiations of other resolutions, which has in fact happened in previous situations.

Our country notes that there are inconsistencies in the Security Council's actions in relation to the concerned States and the relevant resolutions. In some cases, the Security Council has shown great weakness and laxity in taking unilateral actions against some States with regard to the deployment of peacekeeping missions. In other cases, including this one, the Security Council imposes its resolutions and disregards the opinion of the Government of Burundi, in violation of the principle of State consent.

Venezuela recognizes the efforts of the African Union and other subregional and Burundian organizations to resolve the political crisis affecting that nation. Our country also shares the concerns that have been expressed by other States membes of the Council with regard to the potential deterioration of the situation in the country, which could lead to even greater conflict. That is why we reiterate our firm commitment to a peaceful settlement of the conflict — one of inclusive understanding reached through dialogue and in accordance with the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement and the country's Constitution. We also support the dialogue and mediation process that is being led by former President of Tanzania, Mr. Benjamin Mkapa, and by President of Uganda, Mr. Yoweri Museveni, in the framework of an African and inter-Burundian dialogue.

Finally, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela regrets that the opportunity was missed to reaffirm the Security Council's responsibility to work in coordination with Burundi and to safeguard, together with the Member States of this Organization, the principles of the rule of law.

Mr. Seck (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): The Senegalese delegation welcomes the adoption of resolution 2303 (2016), which authorizes the deployment of a police component to Burundi.

Just yesterday in this Chamber, our debate on peacebuilding (see S/PV.7750) demonstrated, inter alia, that the political and security situation in Burundi remained very worrisome. By adopting this resolution, the Council expresses its full support for the inter-Burundian dialogue, under the aegis of the East African Community through the good offices of the Special Adviser, in the spirit and letter of the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement.

We are suddenly in a prevention situation to ensure that the worse does not occur. The African Union and the United Nations must monitor the situation together to assist the Government of Burundi and the opposition in holding a peaceful dialogue.

Ms. Power (United States of America): We are profoundly concerned about the dramatic deterioration of the situation in Burundi over the past year and a half. During this period, as we all know, some 270,000 people have been displaced; at least 348 people have reportedly been the victims of extrajudicial killings; and 651 reported cases of torture have been documented. These are just the crimes that we know about. All are worrying signs that the country's brutal past may be repeating itself. This week, appalling new reports emerged of sexual violence by members of the ruling party's youth militia, which we and other Council members have been warning about for several years. Women have said that they were raped simply because of their political party affiliations. This is sickening. Absent serious, concerted international engagement and pressure, the situation is all but certain to deteriorate further.

The Council is not alone in its grave concern regarding these crimes or in its efforts to stop them and bring the perpetrators to justice. The United Nations has established an office in Burundi, drawn up contingency plans, sent the Secretary-General to Bujumbura and opened a Human Rights Council independent investigation into the situation. And, as we all know, in January the Security Council travelled to Burundi, where we urged President Nkurunziza to change course and pursue a path to peace. None of the steps that we asked the President to take has he embarked upon.

Meanwhile, the African Union (AU) authorized the deployment of 200 human rights and military monitors, dispatched a delegation of five Heads of State to help address the evolving crisis, and authorized, initially, a 5,000-strong peacekeeping force to stem the violence. The AU began the deployment of human rights observers and military experts to Burundi on 22 July 2015 — more than a year ago — after the AU Peace and Security Council agreed to deploy monitors in May 2015. But rather than facilitating the deployment of AU monitors, the Government of Burundi spent months delaying the implementation of a memorandum of understanding that would have allowed the monitors to do their job.

After rejecting a peacekeeping force, the Government promised AU Heads of State in February of this year that 200 monitors would be allowed to deploy. Yet today, only 36 monitors are in Burundi. I want to stress that this is the Government of Burundi with which many members of the Council have insisted we coordinate the United Nations deployment. Of course, the deployment must be coordinated with the Government of Burundi. In order for anybody to deploy, you have to coordinate with the Government that provides visas and landing rights at the airport, and that allows people to move around.

But, honestly, listening to speakers today, I feel as if we are living in a parallel universe. Council are members speaking, in many cases, with no regard for what the Government is doing to Africa's own monitors. It is especially disappointing not to hear the two abstainers from Africa even acknowledge the fate of Africa's own monitors. We have got to merge the reality that we live in, in this beautiful Chamber, with the reality that is playing out on the ground every day.

Today was an occasion when we could have sent a clear, unified message to the Government of Burundi that we will not allow similar tactics to delay the police deployment authorized today, and that continued obstruction of the AU mission must stop. If the African Members of the Council cannot stand for this, I do not know what we are doing here. This is a Government that is blocking their people from deploying. The African Council Members are trying to help. We are trying to help them help.

The Government of Burundi has remained closed, unwilling to listen to its neighbours, partners and the international community, and resistant to following through on the commitments it has made. Meanwhile, it has to be stressed that some of those who oppose the Government continue also to resort to violence and to commit abuses. The United States strongly condemns violence perpetrated by all sides in Burundi. We hope that this presence, as it evolves, will document those abuses and empower us to come to agreement on what further steps might be taken.

The authorization of a United Nations police component will put additional eyes and ears on the ground, who will be able report directly to the Security

Council. That is valuable. But we should not harbour any illusions that this will fix Burundi's problems. It will only at best observe those problems. Police are not being deployed to protect civilians, even though civilians are in dire need of protection. That should embarrass us. Instead, police are effectively being asked to be human rights monitors. That is the most that we as a Council were able to agree upon, and we could not even secure consensus on this.

This really raises questions about the Council's will when it comes to preventing atrocities, especially when a Government is implicated in atrocities. What the people of Bunrundi deserve and what the Council needs to continue to insist on is serious engagement by the Government in a process of dialogue with all stakeholders in order to reach agreement on a peaceful way forward. The games have to stop; the preconditions have to stop. The Government is still insisting on sitting down only with those it already agrees with. It must stop lashing out at civil society and the opposition, and the opposition, those who have engaged in violence, must renounce it and must itself refrain from setting these onerous preconditions for dialogue. No one will get anywhere if things continue as they are.

The United States has settled for much less than what it wanted with this resolution. Others have spoken about good-faith proposals. I assure the Council that lots of good-faith proposals do not appear in the text of the resolution. But, as someone who has looked at the issues of mass atrocities over many years and studied it on many continents, I have to say that we worry that our inability to unite even on this sends precisely the wrong message to parties that already feel a great sense of impunity. These abstentions will be solace to a Government that relishes our division; it has always made that clear. It is not at all clear to me that a Council that says repeatedly that it has learned the lessons of Rwanda has in fact done so.

It is not at all clear to me either that, for all the talk at yesterday's Africa peacebuilding meeting (see S/PV.7750) about the importance of prevention, we in the Security Council are serious about prevention. This is a prevention moment, and yet this is where we are. What is clear is that we believe in the prevention of atrocities by non-State actors, but when a Government is implicated, we cannot even unite to send a robust monitoring presence.

Today's resolution is a step forward, but it is a much smaller one than this crisis and the people of Burundi deserve.

Mr. Yelchenko (Ukraine): Let me begin by congratulating you, Mr. President, and the Japanese delegation for the effective presidency this month and welcoming the adoption of resolution 2303 (2016), which is an important prevention resolution. We would like to express our gratitude to the French delegation for its hard work on the draft and for taking on board a number of suggestions, including ours.

Our delegation, recognizing the continued violations of human rights and the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Burundi, strongly supports the deployment of a United Nations police component in the country. In our opinion, sending 228 police officers is the bare minimum for the moment. We strongly condemn the extra-judicial executions and torture perpetrated by the Burundian security forces from the onset of the crisis. Unfortunately, the latest report from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights documents an increase in the number of cases of forced disappearances and acts of torture in the country. All of this happened after our own visit to Burundi.

In this regard, we urge the Burundian authorities to return to respecting, protecting and guaranteeing human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and to bring to justice all responsible for such crimes.

Since only 32 human rights observers and 15 military experts out of the 200 previously agreed on were deployed from the African Union in Burundi, we call upon the Government of Burundi to ensure the full implementation of the resolution without delay and to reconsider its position regarding the deployment of the police component.

We consider sanctions to be an effective enforcement tool and fully support the Council's intention to pursue targeted measures against all actors that threaten peace and security in Burundi.

At the same time, Ukraine is convinced that the peaceful resolution of the Burundian crisis will be possible only through an inclusive political dialogue. We would like also to emphasize the need to strengthen coordination between all relevant international and regional stakeholders so as to find solutions to stabilize the situation in Burundi.

Mr. Taula (New Zealand): New Zealand voted in favour of resolution 2303 (2016). The situation in Burundi and the risk of further escalation continues to be of major concern to New Zealand. The resolution meets our expectations for a credible and appropriate response. We would stress that the resolution is not the end of the process but a small milestone in efforts to restore peace and stability. Achieving this must take place in the context of efforts to achieve a political solution, with a significant role for the region and supporting a genuine incredible inter-Burundian dialogue.

Mr. Safronkov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Russian Federation's firm stance is that international and regional efforts with regard to Burundi will be successful only if they are taken in strict respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country. Resolution 2303 (2016) must be implemented in cooperation, coordination and consultation with the legitimate Government of Burundi, within frameworks agreed with it, and fostering a mutually beneficial dialogue.

The activities of the United Nations should be based on these fundamental criteria. We are convinced that our position will be fully taken into account by Mr. Benomar, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, whom we fully endorse.

The President: The representative of China has asked for the floor to make a further statement.

Mr. Liu Jieyi (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): The position of China on resolution 2303 (2016), which has just been adopted, is quite clear. Our starting point is the fact that the fundamental interests of the Government and the people of Burundi and those of the Governments and people of the African continent as a whole should be protected. The Council is an important organ of the United Nations system. We need to have a responsible attitude towards the people of Burundi, and the Council should be cautious in dealing with these extremely important matters.

The Security Council, during its discussions, must take an inclusive approach and take into account the views of the international community. As we see it, the positions of other countries should not be distorted in this Chamber. To do so is inappropriate and irresponsible; it certainly does not contribute to the common efforts of the Council to help the people and the Government of Burundi to resolve their problems.

The President: The representative of the United States has asked for the floor to make a further statement.

Mr. Power (United States of America): I thank the representative of China for his response, which is probably to my comments. I think that one of the things that the Chinese Ambassador appealed for was a cautious approach, and I just want to say that I think that it is very safe to say, a year and a half into the crisis, that the Council has succeeded in taking a cautious approach. We have yet to do anything to materially affect the trajectory of the conflict. We have a very modest resolution before us today, resolution 2303 (2016), that luckily did go through but that we really need to unite behind.

With our divisions, we are worse. We are worse at preserving international peace and security. This is not a resolution that the United States thought was a great resolution, and I know abstentions can feel as if one can just stay on the sidelines and make one's principled position clear, but we have to unite on Burundi. Those same Burundian people that were just invoked are, I think, counting on us to be able to unite on something as modest as this.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as representative of Japan.

I would like to thank France for its leadership in preparing resolution 2303 (2016). Japan welcomes its adoption.

Yesterday, during the open debate on peacebuilding in Africa (see S/PV.7550), we heard the representatives of many Member States express their concerns over the situation in Burundi. We must not allow Burundi's hard-won progress to vanish after a decade of peacebuilding efforts. It is time for the Council to take concrete action. I believe that Council members are united in their commitment to supporting the political process in Burundi, in close cooperation with the African Union and the East African Community, in order to halt the violence and human rights violations and to prevent a further deterioration of the situation.

Let me underscore one point. Japan believes that the deployment of the United Nations police component authorized under today's resolution will help not only the Security Council to closely monitor the situation on the ground and deter any degradation of the situation, but also the Government of Burundi to rebuild mutual trust with its international partners. In that regard, Japan calls on all the Burundian parties to extend their full cooperation to the United Nations, including the United Nations police component.

Japan, as a long-term development partner of Burundi, sincerely hopes that Burundi will find a way forward out of the current crisis and chart a renewed course towards stability and prosperity in the near future.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

The representative of Egypt has asked to make a further statement.

Mr. Aboulatta (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): I should like to make the following clarification. As I said in my explanation of vote, resolution 2303 (2016) does not refer to the African Union's monitors. My delegation had proposed including such a reference in the draft, but one of the penholders objected to its inclusion.

The President: The representative of the United States has asked to make a further statement.

Ms. Power (United States of America): I do not wish to try people's patience on a Friday evening, so I shall be brief. The point I wished to make in my explanation of vote was that when the African Union (AU) came together, as it did usefully to propose the deployment of 200 monitors a year and two months prior to the negotiation of a resolution by the Security Council, and when only 36 of those 200 monitors have been deployed and none has been able to exercise the mandate that was given to them by the African Union, that is worthy of comment here at the United Nations as we seek to support our African brothers and sisters. A reference to the AU, without making note of what that AU mission has become, would have seemed to be divorced from reality.

The President: Before adjourning the meeting, as this is the last scheduled meeting of the Council for the month of July, I would like to express the sincere appreciation of the delegation of Japan to the members of the Council, especially my colleagues the Permanent Representatives and their respective staffs, and the Secretariat of the Council for all the support they have given to us.

Indeed, it has been a busy month and one in which we rallied to consensus on several important issues within our purview. We could not have done it alone or without the hard work, support and positive contributions of every delegation and the representatives of the Secretariat, as well as the interpreters, sound technicians, security staff and other relevant conference service officers. As we end our presidency, I know I speak on behalf of the Council in wishing the delegation of Malaysia all the best in the month of August.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.